

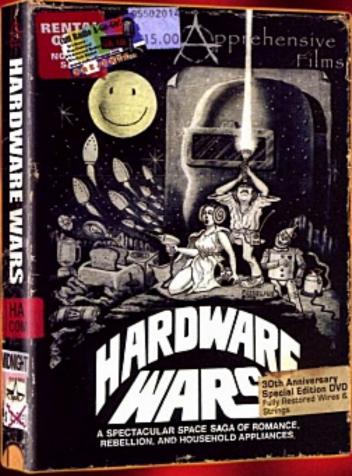
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The second part of our exclusive
Battle of Hoth storyboards. <mark>48</mark> Jedi Archive Rare images of the galaxy's greatest bounty hunter at work! 50 FRONT ROW SEAT!
Insider reports on Star Wars: In Concert
and meets the Master of Ceremonies Anthony Daniels!

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The view from inside Insider. plus details on how to contact the magazine team.

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Exclusive preview of upcoming Star Wars: The Clone Wars episodes: a look at Alderaan as seen at the time of The Old Republic: Celebration V ticket information: the return of Hardware Wars, and new artwork from Star Wars artist JAKe!



10 INTERROGATION DROID

Ashley Eckstein, otherwise known as Ahsoka Tano, discusses the perils of being a Padawan!





1.541.

INSIDE THE UNIQUE STAR WARS INSIDER PREVIEW SECTION



55 Books

An exclusive extract from the latest novel Crosscurrent by new Star Wars author Paul S. Kemp.



The Yuuzhan Vong return in Star Wars: Invasion, plus Luke's training on Dagobah is revealed!



previewed, including a special behind-the-scenes look at Topps latest trading cards!

<mark>72</mark> Bounty

The lucky fans who have met the stars share their experiences!

4 Bantha Tracks

Our tribute to the very best Star Wars fan activity from around the world.

Trash talk from our heroes as Han's rescue mission doesn't go according to plan!







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AUNCH

COMING SOON IN STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS



"THE MANDALORE PLOT" DIRECTED BY KYLE DUNLEVY

While investigating rumors of conspiracy surrounding Duchess Satine of Mandalore, Obi-Wan uncovers the truth about the mysterious "Mandalore Plot."



"VOYAGE OF TEMPTATION" DIRECTED BY BRIAN KALIN O'CONNELL

As the Jedi and their clones defend Duchess Satine from assassination attempts, Anakin discovers that Obi-Wan and the Duchess have a history together.



"DUCHESS OF MANDALORE" DIRECTED BY BRIAN KALIN O'CONNELL

On Coruscant, Duchess Satine is framed for the creation of a Mandalorian terrorist group. On the run from Republic authorities, Satine and Obi-Wan set off to discover the group's true origins.



PAGE 32 We explore the prequel era in part two of our guide to DARK HORSE COMICS



PLUS: 13.MANDALORIANS // 20.DAVE FILONI 26.BARRISS OFFEE // 38.RETRO 40. EMPIRE STORYBOARDS // 55.BLASTER





CELEBRATION V O HIT THE EAST COAST!

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To commemorate the 30th Anniversary of Star Wars: Episode V The Empire Strikes Back and the ongoing, weekly adventures of Star Wars: The Clone Wars, Lucasfilm Ltd. and Reed Exhibitions' PopGroup will partner to produce what's expected to be

one of the largest official Star Wars fan events ever-featuring cast and crew celebrities, fan-run events, costumes, music, live entertainment, screenings, autographs, collectibles, panels and sneak peaks into the future of Star Wars.

Star Wars Celebration V will take place August 12-15, 2010, at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. A website, www.starwarscelebration.com, is dedicated exclusively to the event.

Celebration V tickets are available now!

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION:

- Tickets are available via www.starwarscelebration.com. Pre-sale Adult Four-Day Passes are \$120; Kids Four-Day Passes are \$50; pre-sale Thursday, Friday, and Sunday Passes are \$45; Saturday Passes are \$50; and Kids One-Day Passes are \$25. Children under six years old are admitted free.
- Limited VIP Packages are expected to be available in early 2010, with details to be announced on the website. Single or Four-Day Passes already purchased can be upgraded to VIP status as long as supplies last!
- Special hotel rates and other travel information will also appear on the website.

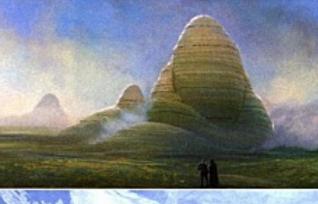
STAR WARS: THE OLD REPUBLIC DESTINATION: ALDERAAN

We all know the eventual fate of the planet Alderaan, but the forthcoming MMO game, Star Wars: The Old Republic gives players a chance to explore this world before its eventual demise.

These pictures give us a look at Princess Leia's adoptive home planet.











O18 870

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INSIDER LOVES:

U.K. BASED ARTIST JAKE HAS TURNED SOME OF THE SAGA'S MOST POPULAR ICONS INTO UNFORGETTABLE CARICATURES!



What is your first Star Wars memory?

My first memory was the U.K. comic, Star Wars Weekly and seeing the 12-inch Palitoy figures. My first figure was R2-D2 and then, finally, I saw the film with my dad.

What was the first character you drew?

When I was little, someone down our street organized a drawing competition. I did a big picture of Darth Vader with felt-tip pen, and won a giant Dairy Milk chocolate bar!

Who is your favorite character?

I like drawing stormtroopers, but this year I've done a lot of Boba Fett, so I think he's become my favorite.

Who is the toughest character to draw?

Strangely, after my initial Dairy Milk-bar victory, I find Vader the most difficult.

What projects have you got coming up?

My "Wookiee Season" print has been released through Acme Archives (see page 67) and I have an idea for a

companion piece featuring Boussh, Chewbacca, and Lando in his skiff guard disguise.

2010 is the 30 year Anniversary of The Empire Strikes Back, so at some point I'll start thinking about artwork for that, in the same vein as my A New Hope 30th Lithograph from 2007.

Some of my brand new designs are now up at http://www.zazzte.co.uk/starwars_jakes. They use print-on-demand technology, so you can get the designs on everything from t-shirts to mugs. Check out http://www.jakestarwars.com/ for the latest updates. Anybody interested in buying original artwork should contact me via that site too.

ERRATUM

Last issue we featured photos of an excellent tauntaun cake created for Star Wars artist Chris Trevas' wedding. Sadly we omitted the credits which were: Photos by mod4 photographic Cake by Courtney Clark of Cake Nouveau Our apologies to all concerned.

INSIDER LOVES: HARDWARE WARS



Director/writer Ernie Fosselius' spoof, Hardware Wars, was the first short film to poke gentle fun at Star Wars. As the short film gets a new DVD release, he spoke to Star Wars Insider.

How did you come up with the idea?

The circumstances were the exciting release of the first Star Wars film combined with my satirical obsessions and need to poke fun at things. In other words, I spoofed it because it was there.

How did you make the movie?

Keep in mind this was 30 years ago, in the pre-digital dark age, when you had to beg or borrow the necessary film stock and equipment to shoot actual [16mm] motion picture film. You had to have it chemically developed in a lab, make a work print to preserve the original footage, edit the picture using a literal cut and tape technique on a sprocket ripping editing machine, while constantly searching the cluttered floor for important lost frames—and then edit the soundtrack the same way.

We hear George Lucas liked your parody. Maybe he felt that every king needs a court jester to help keep things in perspective!

Check out www.afcinema.net for more details!

THE FORCE IS UNLEASHED...AGAIN!

The Star Wars saga continues in 2010 with Star Wars: The Force Unleashed II, a sequel to the blockbuster videogame by LucasArts. Released in 2008, Star Wars: The Force Unleashed remains the fastest-selling Star. Wars game ever, with sales of nearly seven million units worldwide.

In Star Wars: The Force Unleashed II, the epic story continues as players once again assume the role of the devastatingly powerful Starkiller, Darth Vader's secret apprentice. The game is set during the largely unexplored era between Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith and Star Wars: Episode IV A New Hope.

More information about the game can be found at http://www.unleashed2010.com

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 ■ MARCH 2010
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Publisher's US Agent

POSTMASTER

THE STATE OF THE ST

INTERROGATION OROIO!

AHSOKA TANO (ASHLEY ECKSTEIN) ROUTINELY SPARS WITH SEPARATIST FORCES AS WELL AS HER HEADSTRONG MENTOR ANAKIN SKYWALKER IN STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS. HOW WILL SHE FARE WHEN FACED WITH

STAR WARS INSIDER'S INTERROGATION DROID? WORDS: CHRIS SPITALE

Why doesn't Ahsoka wear Jedi robes? Didn't anyone tell her about the dress code?

> Ahsoka is really agile and couldn't pull off all those really cool moves in those robes. Plus, she has a nice little figure and wants to show it off!

So, what are the benefits of wearing a tube top in outer space? You'd obviously get a really good tan!

When Ahsoka's chilling with fellow gal pals Barriss or Aayla, what do you think they gab about?

She's definitely not gabbing about fashion or hair products or makeup! Maybe battle techniques.

And the other girls may be teaching her how to be more respectful. She's very feisty.

How do you think Ahsoka spends her downtime?

She's quite competitive, so she spends her spare time trying to compete with all of the boys!

What music does Ahsoka listen to on her outer space iPod?

She jams out to the Spice Girls, like at Disney Star Wars Weekends. I don't know if anyone saw, but she definitely jammed out to "Wannabe."

Who would Ahsoka most likely have a teenage crush on in the Jedi Order? I don't know about any of the Jedi, but she'd definitely have a crush on the

> baseball player David Eckstein! [For those not in the know, that's Ashley's husband.]

If Anakin went to the dark side prematurely and Ahsoka had to find a new master, whom would she choose?

I'd have to say Plo Koon, because I consider Dave



NAME: ASHLEY ECKSTEIN ALIAS: AHSOKA TANO

FIRST APPEARANCE: Star Wars: The Clone Wars

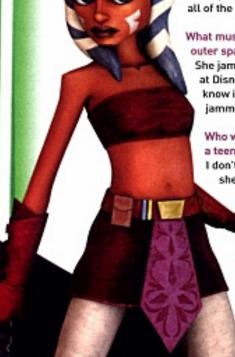
Filoni (who loves Plo Koon) my Jedi Master, and I consider myself his Padawan.

What trait do you think Ahsoka admires most in Anakin?

Ahsoka likes the softer side of Anakin, and she really looks up to him. She likes it when Anakin lets down his guard because she wants to learn a lot from him. Girls like the soft side of their "Sky Guys!"

What would Ashley Eckstein use the Force for?

I'd use it to win a couple of baseball games for my husband! Actually, it did work one time when he was up to bat! I was with my nieces and nephews, and they're huge fans of the show, and I told them to use the Force. I did my Jedi mind trick and said, "You will get a hit," and he got a hit! I knew it was just by chance, but my nieces and nephews are now convinced that they're Force-sensitive!



Ahsoka is asked

question too many.

Right: Ashley slugger Eckstein,

ready to knock one

out of the park!

one probing



Cul & Sew

PRESENTS





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FIGREF HISTORY OF THE MANDALORIANS

riginally the Boba Fett costume was intended to be worn by a squad of supercommandos, troops from the Mandalore system armed with weapons built into their suits." This passage from The Empire Strikes Back Sketchbook, published in June 1980, marked the first use of the term "Mandalore" in Star Wars. Before long, the Mandalorians became a part of the fictional Star Wars canon. With the appearance of Mandalorians in Season Two of The Clone Wars, here's an overview of the major developments of the Mandalorian back-story over the past 30 years.

June 1980 🖫

Showcasing concept art by Joe Johnston, The Empire Strikes Back Sketchbook depicted several iterations of the helmet that would later be worn by Boba Fett. Other art showed Mandalorian super-commandos with chest and stomach armor plates opening up to reveal hidden weaponry.









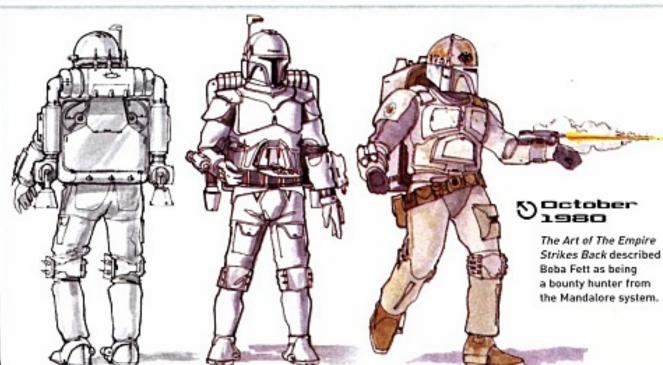


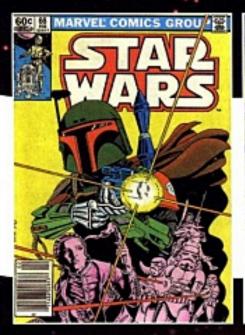


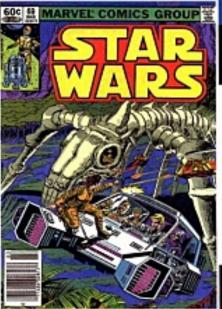










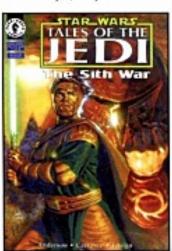


←1983

In Marvel Comics Star Wars #68-69 by David Michelinie, Princess Leia traveled to the planet Mandalore while in pursuit of the bounty hunter Dengar. She met up with Fenn Shysa and Tobbi Dala, two warriors in Mandalorian armor who, along with Boba Fett, were the only three survivors of a force of 212 Mandalorian Protectors who went into battle against the enemies of the Emperor.

4. seer 2

In the Tales of the Jedi: The Sith War comic series by Kevin J. Anderson, we learned that the rivalry between the Jedi and the Mandalorians dated back nearly 4,000 years before the events of Star Wars: A New Hope. In



that series, the Dark Lord of the Sith Utic Oct-Droma went to the planet Kuar, which was occupied by Mandalorians led by the warrior known as Mandalore. Oct-Droma defeated Mandalore in a duel and as a result Mandalore pledged featly of the Mandalorian clans to the Dark Lord. When the Sith and Mandalorians were defeated by the combined forces of the Jedi and the Republic, Mandalore fell in battle. Another Mandalorian warrior picked up the helmet of the fallen leader, and then claimed the title of Mandalore for himself.

May 2002]

Attack of the Clones revealed Boba Fett as the clone of a bounty hunter named Jango Fett, the warrior whose genetic material was used to create the Republic's clone army. This negated the possibility of Boba Fett having ever fought in the Clone Wars alongside the Mandalorians as depicted in the Marvel comics. As an added detail, the Lucasfilm art department created a Mandalorian alphabet seen on the console displays inside Jango Fett's ship, Slave I.

O soos

The Star Wars Bounty Hunter video game written by Jon Knoles and the comic that was based on it, Jango Fett: Open Seasons by Haden Blackman, attempted to salvage Boba Fett's pre-existing history. Knole's and Blackman's solution was to attribute Boba Fett's back-story instead to Jango Fett, his "father." Jaster Mercel, a name previously attributed to Boba Fett, became the Mandalorian who adopted Jango Fett into the Mandalorian culture. Also in these stories, we began to see rivalries within the ranks of the Mandalorians themselves, first with the betrayal by the Mandalorian known as Montross, who would become a rival to Jango Fett, and later by a Mandalorian named Vizsla, who formed a splinter group known as Death Watch. A showdown between a Mandalorian army

led by Jango against a Jedi strike force led by Count Dooku left the Mandalorian warriors decimated. Though he continued to wear the armor, Jango all but abandoned his Mandalorian past for his new life as a bounty hunter.









√2003 \

Republic #51: Protecting Naboo by Haden Blackman, based on concept art created specifically for the Clone Wars stories released between Episodes II and III, introduced the character Durge who wore a chestplate adorned with the skull symbol seen on the armor of Boba Fett. Blackman gave Durge a centuries-long grudge against the Mandalorians, thus fueling his contempt of the clone troopers who bore the face of Jango Fett.



November 2003 4

The Unifying Force by James Luceno, the final novel of the New Jedi Order series, included a surprise appearance by Boba Fett who continued his father's legacy by becoming the new leader of the regrouped Mandalorians. At this late stage in the war, Fett and the Mandalorians fought against the Yuuzhan Vong, even coming to the aid of Han and Leia Organa Solo in the middle of a firefight.



June 2003

The Knights of the Old Republic video game was set against the backdrop of much of the Mandalorian history set up by Tales of the Jedi. Additionally, KOTOR established the Mandalorian Wars, which pitted the Mandalorians against the Republic following the events of the Tales of the Jedi comics. One of the characters in KOTOR was a former Mandalorian named Canderous Ordo.

The 2005 release of Knights of the Old Republic II: The Sith Lords. featured Ordo clad in full Mandalorian armor; in between the events of the games, he had reunited the warrior clans and declared himself to be the new Mandalore.



√December 2003

Tales #18 by Haden Blackman showed Boba Fett early in in the New Jedi Order era as the leader of a newly resurgent Mandalorian army as it pursued an obviously confused Han Solo.

October 2004 🖰

Karen Traviss' novel Republic Commando: Hard Target and its sequels, all tie-ins to 2005's Republic Commando video game, featured Mandalorian training sergeants instructing the Republic commandos. The game's marketing materials and soundtrack featured a Mandalorian chant suggesting the degree to which Mandalorian culture had been adopted by the clones.



January 2005→

In Insider #80, Abel G. Peña's comprehensive "The History of the Mandalorians" touched upon virtually every single mention of Mandalorian and Fett history created in the Expanded Universe. integrating the disparate sources into a single, cohesive continuity.



March 2005

In Cartoon Network's Clone Wars micro-series, an ARC trooper clone pilot bears a symbol on his helmet based on Joe Johnston concept art shown in The Empire Strikes Back Sketchbook.



February 12006

In Insider #86 The Mandalorians: People and Culture" by Karen Traviss provided an in-depth study of Mandalorian culture and

language, Supplemental material posted online included the first Mandalorian language glossary (known in their native tongue as Mando'al along with extensive grammar rules.



In Star Wars Visionaries, a comic showcasing art and stories by many of the concept artists who worked on Revenge of the Sith, artist Robert Barnes delved further into the backstory of the Mandalorian skull symbol worn by both Durge and Boba Fett. The skull resembled the face of an alien Mandalorian named Jaing whom Durge had once fought alongside, Again,

the concept of betrayal within the Mandalorian ranks surfaced with Jaing falling in battle and Durge wearing the skull symbol on his armor to honor him.



September 2006

John Jackson Miller's Knights of the Old Republic comic series, set in between the events of Tales of the Jedi and the KOTOR



71 2009 12

Marketing materials for the upcoming The Old Republic massive multiplayer online roleplaying game showed that the Mandalorians continued to be major players in the war between the 5ith and Republic.





July Soos () ()

The Art of Star Wars: The Clone Wars book included concept art for Sundari, the capital city of the planet Mandalore, and early concepts of a Mandalorian fighter causing some concern amongst hardcore Mandalorian fans as to what impact Star Wars: The Clone Wars series would have on existing continuity. Other shocking tidbits of Mandalore history were revealed in the Star Wars Essential Atlas, and The Complete Star Wars Encyclopedia. These included the portrayal of Satine as a pacifistic leader of the ruling Mandalorian government.



eoos ylucĴ

The Clone Wars Season Two footage shown at San Diego Comic-Con International portrayed a group of characters wearing Mandalorian armor poised to take on the Jedi. The promise of Mandalorians fighting Jedi in the Clone Wars onscreen came full circle.

2009 L

Mandalorians made their first appearance in the Star Wars Legacy comic series in issue #41. In that story, Hondo Karr, a former member of an Imperial stormtrooper unit known as Joker Squad and later a member of the Galactic Alliance's famed Rogue Squadron, revealed himself to be a former Mandalorian. The issue concluded with Karr leaving Rogue Squadron, donning his armor to once again fight alongside the Mandalorians.



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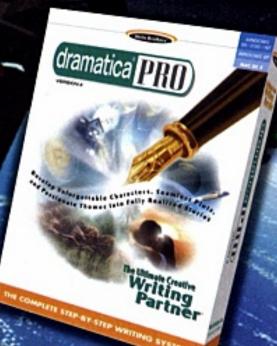
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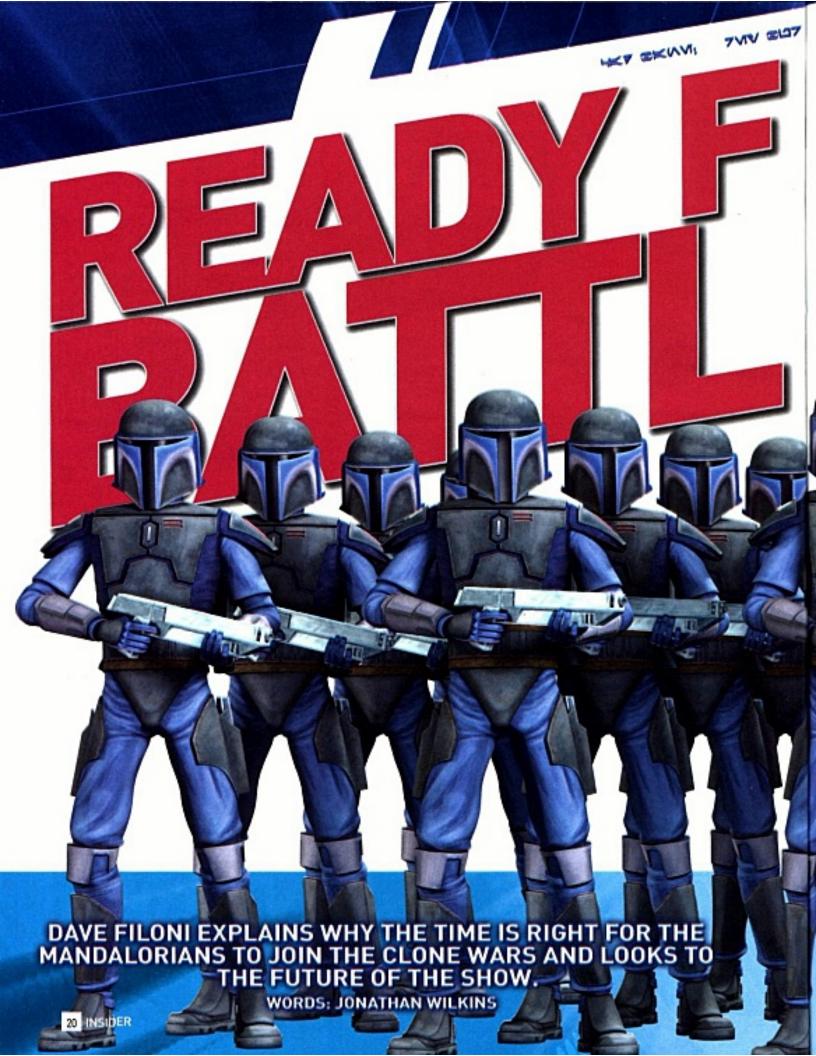
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Did you get the sense that George was using some of the original concepts he had when he developed Boba Fett for The Empire Strikes Back?

George conceived the Mandalorians as supercommandos from the beginning. We adapted certain elements, but—working very closely with George—we brought them to the screen the way that he envisaged

What do you think the Mandos add to the overall that civilization. dynamic of the second season of The Clone Wars?

They definitely add a lot. I like having an armed force that's not a battle droid-driven force. We've been lucky in Season Two in that we've had the Geonosians, and now we have the Mandalorians. They're very much their own group and they're not as subservient as a lot of the occupied military forces. They are definitely working in league with Dooku, but they have their own goals as far as what they're trying to accomplish for themselves in

Did you draw on any Expanded Universe sources the Clone Wars. when you were developing them for the show?

Not particularly. There were only a few scant things that George and I actually used in The Clone Wars series itself. That's not to say that the other EU stuff is eliminated or gone. I know some people will say, "This isn't the way I pictured it", but we're showing a particular point in their history, which is a very interesting

that history is still there. We're just looking at one stice of it at this particular moment. It's bound to be different from some people's ideas.

Absolutely! There's what you think is going to happen, That's true of a lot of Star Wars. and then there's what actually happens! I remember watching the prequels, and things were dramatically ditterent than what I had speculated or what I had read as a lan. The way I've always operated is that when it comes from George, that's the way it is! When George Lucas tells you what the Mandalorian planet looks like and what the buildings look like, and how it all operates, you have to say. "Well, he's a pretty good source for information! I should listen to this guy!"

Given the weight of fan expectations, was it a difficult storyline to get right?

I don't think it was difficult because we were working to George's expectations, it's a story he wanted to tell. Do we meet the expectations of the "Fandalorians" and the various groups that are immersed in that culture? We'll have to wait and see, I'm sure the episodes will definitely raise some questions. And that makes it fun!

How did you come to cast Jon Favreau as Pre Vizsla? Jon was working on Iron Man, and it came to my

attention that he was a Star Wars lan. He was at Skywalker Ranch with his family and was curious about what we were doing. He let me see some of Iron Man and he got to check out our show! It was a lot of fun. He mentioned oft-hand that he would be interested in voicing a character for us and it just so happened that I had a character that wasn't cast. I thought it would be a really cool thing for Jon, and fun for tans if he did the part.

And he did a great job of playing Pre Vizsla; he's the one guy that, in this whole Mandalorian world, is the defender of the historic Mandalorian past. He's the one character who knows what the Mandatorians were and what they should be, and wants to get them back to that reality. He's a great character and I think that he'll become a favorite of many tans.

Where does the name Pre Vizsla came from? "Pre" is kind of a title, one of some stature, like "pre-eminent," But "Vizsla" actually comes from a character that was in the comic books. Vizsla was the leader of the Death Watch movement. Of the things that existed in the EU world, Vizsta and the Death Watch were two things that George kept and wanted to work with in The Clone Wars, so we have those elements in our show. It also sounds like "pre-vis"—the process by which we shoot a preproduction rough of the show, so it's also an inside joke.

Who comes up with the little proverbs at the start of

That's usually the task of that episode's writer. When they turn in a script they're supposed to have their each show? tittle proverb worked out. Sometimes we find that in the course of making the episode it's no longer true! The episodic directors, George, and I run the episodes through the wringer, and sometimes we change so much that the writers' initial intentions have changed, so we'll rewrite it. Henry Gilroy has a little book of proverbs that George had given him and we used to draw a let from that. We'd change them a little in order to give them a bit of a Star Wars twist.

Are there any unusual sources of inspiration for

We are inspired all the time. The inspiration for Cad Bane comes from Sergio Leone westerns. The plunk the characters? droid is based on our designer Kitian Plunkett, so we have it make the "plunk" sound when it walks around. We do bizarre little things like that.

If you could change one thing about any episode so far, what would it be?

Being from the "George Lucas school of Star Wars" I can say that I fully understand why he makes Special Editions! There are all kinds of things about previous episodes that I would work on and change. When you



evolve into a better storyteller and suddenly you also have better tools to tell the story, you sit there and think Boy if I could do that episode again I bet we could do it so much better! I have a list of things for a whole bunch of episodes, as I'm sure George did for his movies, but you just have to make a decision: Are you going to dwell on that or move on? What we've chosen to do is to keep moving forward and to try to make each new episode better. If I don't like the way a planet turned out in the past, if we go back to that planet I make sure it looks way better. You'll see that in something as recognizable as Coruscant. When you look at the view of Coruscant in The Clone Wars movie from outside Palpatine's office, it's just one painting. When you look at it now, in episodes like "Hostage Crisis" or "Senate Spy," it's a complete world. There are buildings outside, there's more traffic... there are all kinds of things going on. I once talked to George about it, and he told me, "Ah, you've got to let it go; there's nothing you can do about it." I said "Hey, but you changed stuff!" George understands

"GEORGE TOLD ME, "AH, YOU'VE GOT TO LET IT GO; THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT." I SAID "HEY, BUT YOU CHANGED STUFF!

that you see things with a better and a more critical eye. It's funny when people think we've gotten something wrong when in fact it's intentional. For example, if a

character has a cloak and it's not like the cloak you saw in the live-action movie, there are probably several. reasons—and not because we're trying to make a fashion statement. There's an allocation of cloth that we're allowed to animate in every episode, so having a shorter cape on a character is easier than toor-

Can Absoka see through Palpatine's mask of evil? length. That's why Plo Koon doesn't have the same outfit as in the movies. I would have preferred to have it the same, but our production time dictated that he had to have a belt, because he has a full-length shoulder-to-floor robe. I probably could do it differently now. Who knows? Maybe he'll get a wardrobe change!

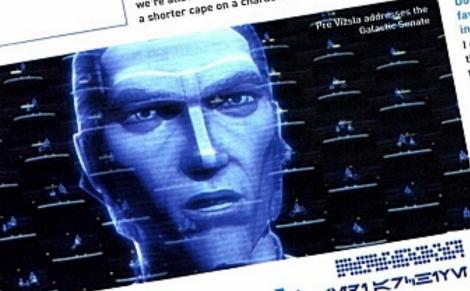
PET SKNY:

What sequences have exceeded your expectations? I thought that Mustafar in "Children of the Force" turned out really well. A volcanic planet for us was a borderline panic attack! I remember watching web docs around Revenge of the Sith when they were saying how difficult it was going to be for them to do all the lava and other effects and I thought, Great, now we have to do it for TV! Joel Aron (visual effects supervisor) and the team rose to the challenge and pulled it

off brilliantly. Do you have a favorite in-joke in the show?

I don't, because I think those kinds of things are just so checky. You really have to be in the know in order to realize that we just referenced something. I thought that we had gone too far in the first season, so we really pulled back.

One thing that I thought was kind of "inside" was the scene in "Children of the Force" where Anakin and Ahsoka go to talk to



Chancellor Palpatine, and Palpatine stops her at the door and doesn't let her into his office. I thought it was a tittle tongue-in-cheek; the fans know that he's the Sith Lord corrupting Anakin Skywalker, but it's also for the lans who are perplexed by the question of why Ahsoka is there. Palpatine is dismissive of her, which I thought was kind of tunny. I thought that they d be glad that he dissed her so directly, so we did that very intentionally. There's also probably the idea that young people often see through the disguise of evil more easily than adults. Adults have no problem thinking of Palpatine as a politician. He's corrupt. Well, of course he's devious. That's the cliché of the corrupt politician. They don't see that he's the Sith Lord; maybe she would... but Palpatine really has Anakin in probably not! his clutches at this stage.

One of my favorite things is

seeing that father-like figure

that Palpatine represents. He's

a constant supporter of

Anakin and an encouraging presence. Where the Jedi tell Anakin to be more measured and patient, Palpatine tells him. They need you more than you know. I suspect you'll become the greatest of all Jedi, even more powerful than Master Yoda." Who wouldn't like to hear that kind of thing, as opposed to the constant criticism he gets from

How defined is Ahsoka's journey in the show and Mace Windu?

do you know what her tate will be? I definitely have a plan for her in mind, I keep a tab on where sive's at, where she's been, and where she needs to go, it gets considerable thought because I feel very invested in her, and Rex's character as well. I really want to faithfully follow through on their eventual fates, I know that people like to think that when you start a project as big and with as much scope as The Clone Wars that you know from day one what's going to happen to all these people. But through the creative process and the evolution of a story, many things can change. If you look at all the letters that Lord of the Rings author J.R.R. Tolkien wrote about characters,

plot, and so on, you see the struggles that went on in the development of his characters and what was going to happen to them. Some of our characters lates are pretty easy to figure out, like Anakin. What happens to his relationship with Ahsoka is a bigger question.



YOU MIGHT BE FORGIVEN FOR BELIEVING THAT STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS' BARRISS OFFEE IS VOICED BY AN ENGLISH ACTRESS. IN FACT, THE PADAWAN IS PLAYED BY U.S. ACTRESS MEREDITH SALENGER!



THE JOURNEY OF



WORDS: JONATHAN WILKINS



ere you a fan of Star Wars
when you went for the role?
I was a huge fan when the
first movies came out. I remember Star
Wars was the very first movie I went to
that had a line to get in. My dad and I were
standing there and I was looking around
the block, amazed at how incredibly long
the line was. So I'm a fan, but I suppose
not as big of a fan as most Star Wars
Insider readers!

How long have you been a voice-over actor?
I've been doing it for about three years,
so in the general scheme of things I'm
pretty new. But I started acting when
I was really young [At the age of 15,
Salenger played the lead role in the
Disney movie, The Journey of Natty Gann].
I had friends who did voice acting, but
I didn't realize you could do both.

When you got the role were you given any back-story for your character?
[The Clone Wars Supervising Director]
Dave Filoni gave me an idea of who Barriss was. He explained to me that her background was developed in the Star Wars Expanded Universe. Dave gave me a few books that were written around her character, and we talked about who she is, what her skills are, and what kind of person she is.

Barriss has an impeccable English accent, in fact, here at Star Wars Insider we were expecting to interview Kate Winslet! When I was younger I thought I had a nice English accent, and when I was a teenager I did a movie in Australia for four months. I thought the Australian accent was fantastic and couldn't stop doing it! When I tried to go back to a English accent I found it had been ruined, so I had to be really careful to keep them separate. I actually play another character later in the season who has an Australian accent.

I've always been obsessed with accents, ever since I was little. Anytime I hear an accent that I like, I quietly imitate the person other in our accents, "Well, you have a good English accent!" "Well, you have a good American accent!" She's just a very cool, down-to-earth girl. We've run in to each other a bit over the years, and she's lovely.

Do you have a favorite memory from working on the show so far?

Sometimes you're missing a few of the actors when you're doing a scene, and they'll go back and record their characters later. But there was one day when we had every single character in the studio.

under my breath. So if I'm watching TV and I hear someone say something like, [in an English accent] "I thought that was beautiful," I'll just repeat what they said.

You work a lot on the show with Olivia d'Abo (Luminara Unduli). She's my Master!

You both started your acting careers in the early 1980s.

Yes, and the funny thing is I never really knew she was English because she has such a good American accent! I was telling her that it's unusual when someone has a good American accent, because I know it's difficult to get right. We joked with each So many of the voice-over actors have been doing this forever and have done some really famous characters like Tigger from Winnie the Pooh!

It was just fascinating to watch them go between [characters]. One person would be doing three characters in one scene and just banter back and forth "amongst" himself. It was just amazing! That was, I think, the most special thing, just to see everyone doing their work.

I thought my voice could only sound one way, and then I realized the braver and more courageous you become, the more voices you find within yourself. You just have to be free enough and not as self-protective or worried what people might think.









LAST ISSUE, STAR WARS INSIDER WENT BACK TO THE EARLY DAYS OF DARK HORSE COMICS. THIS TIME DAN WALLACE UNCOVERS WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE PREQUELS HIT THE SCREENS AND STAR WARS POPULARITY REACHED FEVER PITCH!

he hype was inescapable. Fueled by the record-setting release of the Star Wars Trilogy Special Editions and a tantalizing string of trailers, teases, and sneak peeks for Star Wars: Episode | The Phantom Menace, 1999 was shaping up to be the biggest year that Star Wars had ever seen.

Dark Horse Comics stood ready to ride the wave. After relaunching Star Wars licensed comics with Dark Empire in the early 1990s, the company had enjoyed a succession of hits that took the saga from the timeframe of the classic trilogy to the vanished splendor of the Republic's golden age. The prequels represented a second phase in Dark Horse's Star Wars output-for the first time, the company would be producing work alongside new George Lucas movies that promised new characters, new conflicts, and a fresh sensibility.

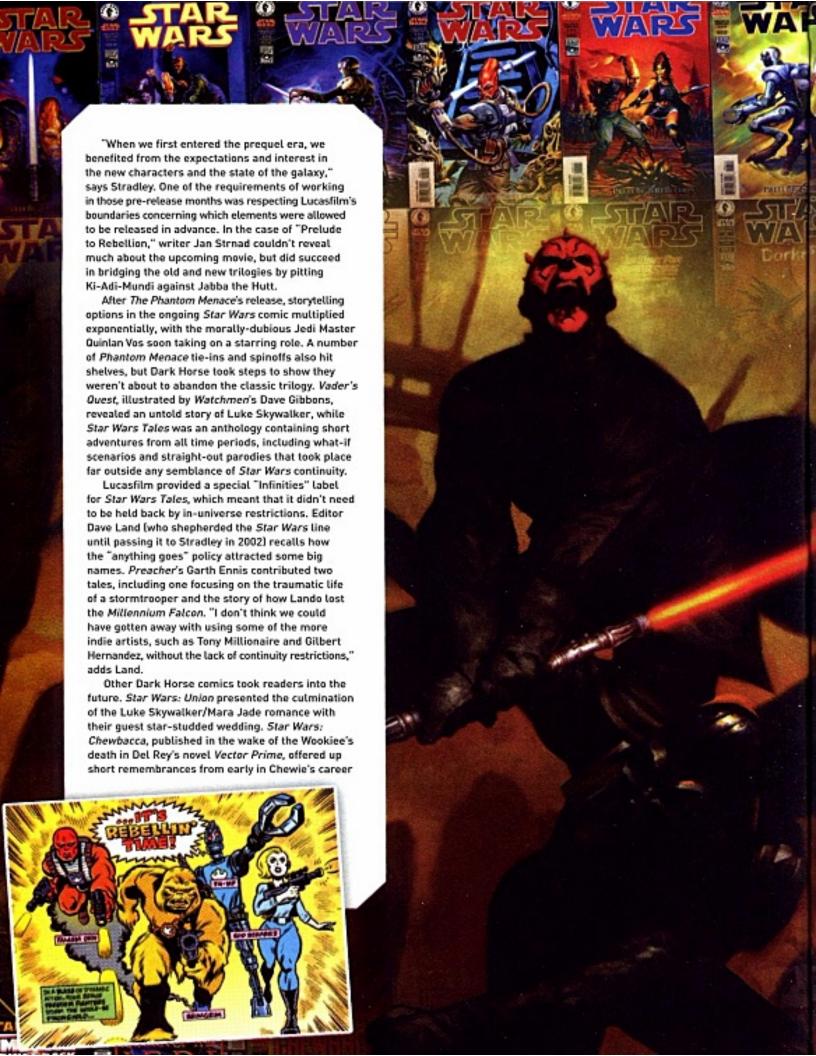
Ironically, the massive public interest in the preguels didn't help Dark Horse much during the period from 1999-2005. There simply seemed to be an overabundance of options for fans wanting to scratch a Star Wars itch. "When The Phantom

Menace was released we experienced an almost immediate drop-off in sales," says Dark Horse's Randy Stradley. "Sales stayed at that lower level pretty much across the board until after the release of Revenge of the Sith. During the period of the prequels there was so much Star Wars material available that fans couldn't afford it all and were forced to make choices. After the third film, as the product wave subsided, our sales went back up to previous levels."

Stradley notes that the decrease and rebound weren't merely confined to prequel-themed titles, nor was the phenomenon a reflection on the quality and craftsmanship of the era's stories. "I really think it was a case of fan appetite for all things Star Wars being temporarily sated," he says.

Dark Horse's prequel era actually began at the end of 1998, with the publication of the first installment of the story arc "Prelude to Rebellion." The event represented two important milestones: the inauguration of a new ongoing series (simply called Star Wars, in the vein of the Marvel series that ran from 1977-1986), and the introduction of Episode I's Jedi character Ki-Adi-Mundi.







UAK ITI MAUL









THE DARK HORSE VEARS

Dark Horse's prequel-era output was prolific, but don't give up. Presented here is a top-line guide to getting your hands on all these stories, which span multiple eras of the Star Wars timeline.



Star Wars: Republic [1998-2006]

The prequel era at Dark Horse began with the Launch of this series, originally titled simply Star Wars. Its early years are notable for the adventures featuring the Jedi Quinlan Vos and Aayla Secura. The series received a name change to Star Wars: Republic with issue #46 and began chronicling the events of the Clone Wars, ending its run

with issue #83. It has been collected in 18 trade paperbacks, with "Prelude to Rebellion" the first volume in the run. Collectors take note: The tenth through eighteenth collections are labeled "Clone Wars" volumes 1-9 (and don't carry any outward Star Wars: Republic identification).

Vader's Quest (1999)

Darth Vader hunts for the pilot who destroyed the Death Star in this four-issue series by Darko Macan and Dave Gibbons (Watchmen). The story is available in its own trade paperback collection, and can also be found in the highvalue, 336-page Star Wars Omnibus: Early Victories.



Star Wars Tales [1999-2005]

An ambitious experiment, Star Wars Tales took its "Infinities" label to heart by publishing a broad range of short stories from the likes of Garth Ennis, Peter David, Tony Millionaire, and Sergio Aragones. The series lasted an epic 24 issues and has been collected in a series of six trade paperbacks.

Star Wars: Union (1999-2000)

The wedding of Luke Skywalker and Mara Jade almost goes off without a hitch in this four-issue series, which was subsequently collected as a trade paperback and a limited Star Wars 30th Anniversary Collection hardcover.

Star Wars: Chewbacca (2000-2001)

To commemorate Chewbacca's death, this four-issue series featured untold tales from Chewie's early years illustrated by Jan Duursema, Dave Gibbons, Kilian Plunkett, and more. It has been collected in trade paperback format.





Jedi such as Obi-Wan Kenobi, Mace Windu, and Yoda, a risk always existed that prequel fans might eventually experience lightsaber fatigue. "In the prequel films, almost all the best protagonists are Jedi, and the few non-Jedi that we wanted to use—Padmé and Captain Panaka—were at the time off-limits for use in the Expanded Universe," says Stradley. "In hindsight I wish we had introduced more 'regular' characters, even though the prequels do seem to be about the Jedi and their downfall."

But Dark Horse continued to offer readers plenty of storytelling options. From writer Mike Kennedy came the five-issue *Underworld: The Yavin Vassilika*, a bounty hunter caper that sprang from Kennedy's love of Lando Calrissian. Also in the mix was the new ongoing series *Star Wars: Empire*, set during the timeframe of the classic trilogy. "Although I think the classic characters, especially the big three, have the potential to suffer

as Han, Leia, Wedge, and others created a memorial to their fallen friend.

But the prequel timeframe remained vibrant. The four-issue series Darth Maul put a spotlight on Episode I's most popular villain, while Jedi Council: Acts of War put Mace Windu, Plo Koon, and other Jedi Masters through the wringer in a fight against alien aggressors.

The 2002 release of Attack of the Clones unlocked the era's true potential. With the Clone Wars, Dark Horse had an epic opportunity to deliver gritty wartime stories that many fans had been craving and writer Haden Blackman helped steer the course.

The Clone Wars were serialized in Star Wars: Republic (the new name for Star Wars as of issue #46) which established Asajj Ventress as a villain to be reckoned with. "This time period had an additional payoff when it became clear that Episode III was going to begin with the conclusion of the Clone Wars," says Stradley. "This left us a great deal of freedom to establish our own paths through that era."

Because the prequels revolved around the exploits of



somewhat from overexposure, we didn't want to ignore that era," says Stradley. "My directive for writers working on Empire was that they try to show Luke, Leia, and Han through the eyes of other characters. Don't just show us Luke being heroic, but show us how he's heroic, and how his decisions and actions affect and inspire the point-of-view characters."

The 2005 release of Revenge of the 5ith ended the live-action prequel era. Although Dark Horse published related tie-ins (including the four-issue General Grievous), it largely used the opportunity to take its stories in previously-unexplored directions including the Empire's formative years in Star Wars: Dark Times. As Stradley succinctly puts adds, "I feel very strongly that Dark Horse's job is not to reinvent Star Wars, but to simply tell the best stories we can within the existing framework of the galaxy. -

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!



DARK HORSE HEARS



Star Wars: Darth Maul (2000)

The action is fast and furious as Darth Maul single-handedly wipes out a Black Sun criminal syndicate group in this brutal adventure. It can be acquired as a solo trade paperback, as a limited edition Star Wars 30th Anniversary Collection hardcover, or within the 454-page Star Wars Omnibus: Rise of the Sith.

Jedi Council: Acts of War (2000)

A four-issue series pitting some of the Jedi Order's greatest fighters against an army of Yinchorri warriors. Acts of War is available either as a standalone trade paperback or as one of the tales in Star Wars Omnibus: Rise of the Sith.

Underworld: The Yavin Vassilika (2000-2001

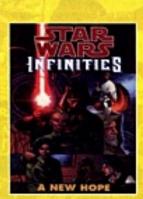
This five-issue bounty hunter romp stars everybody from Boba Fett to Greedo. It is available in a standalone paperback collection.

Star Wars: Jedi vs. Sith (2001)

Set 1,000 years before the events of the movies, this six-issue series was the first to flesh out the character of Darth Bane. It is available as a trade paperback and a special limited-edition Star Wars 30th Anniversary Collection hardcover.

Star Wars Infinities [2001-2004]

These "what if" stories retold the movies of the classic trilogy. but with twists that caused their narratives to unspool as alternative history. Star Wars Infinities: A New Hope, Star Wars Infinities: The Empire Strikes Back, and Star Wars Infinities: Return of the Jedi are each available in trade paperback format.



Star Wars: Empire (2002-2006)

This series ran for a total of 40 issues and has been collected in seven trade paperbacks—the first of which,

> Betrayal," centers on a plot by Imperial Moffs to kill Emperor Palpatine.



Star Wars: General Grievous (2005)

Originally printed as a fourissue limited series, this tale of Grievous' plot to transform Jedi younglings into his personal cyborgs is available as a standalone trade paperback.

RETRO

BOBA'S BOUNTY

EVEN BEFORE HIS FIRST SCREEN APPEARANCE, FEARED BOUNTY HUNTER BOBA FETT WAS A FAVORITE WITH COLLECTORS! WORDS & PICTURES: GUS LOPEZ

espite his rather ignominious apparent demise in Return of the Jedi, Boba Fett remains one of the most popular characters of the Star Wars saga. He has appeared on so much Star Wars merchandise that an outsider might mistakenly think the entire saga is about him. Even before the character's concept was completely nailed down, Boba Fett collectibles were offered to fans who were eagerly awaiting the introduction of this mysterious character in The Empire Strikes Back.



(1) One of the first Boba Fett items was a set of lithographs based on early Joe Johnston sketches of the character. The initial concept for Boba Fett was a white-armored soldier, looking not altogether different from stormtroopers. These early lithographs feature the white-clad bounty hunter, with accessories, such as the wrist-activated flamethrower, that would never make it on-screen in the original trilogy but would later surface in Episode II used by his "father" Jango Fett, Acme Archives recently introduced a portfolio containing reduced-size copies of the original lithos.



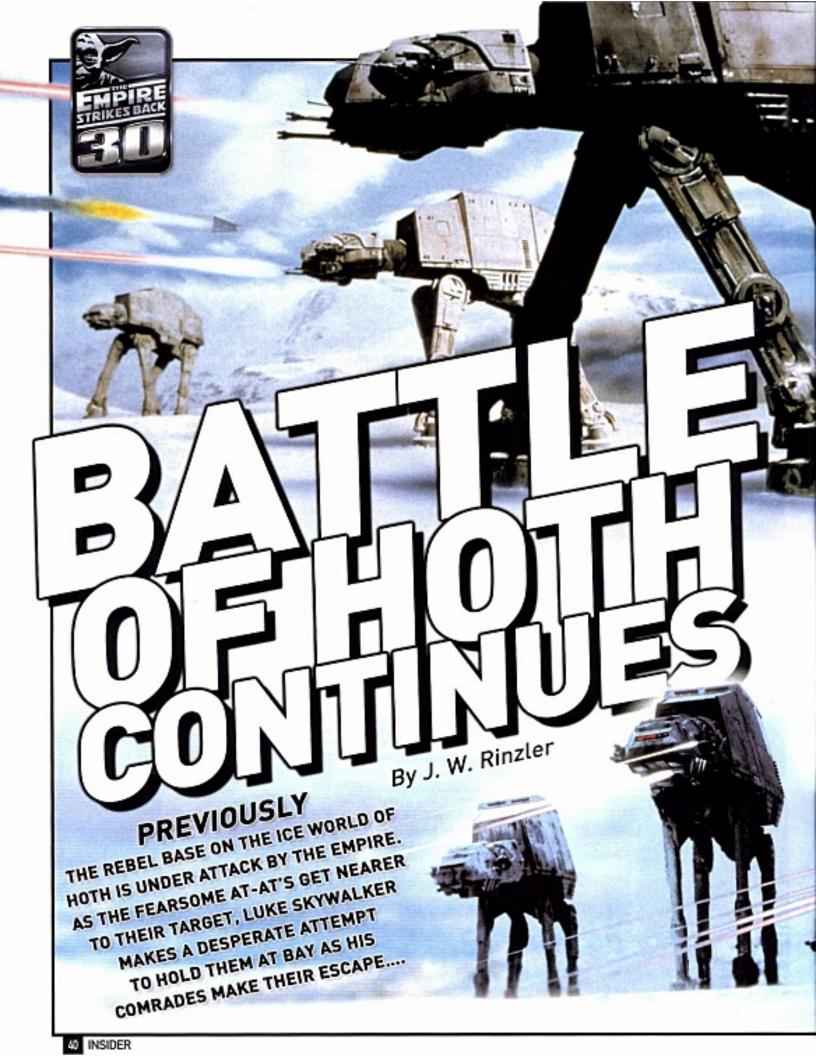
(2) Ben Cooper, the classic producer of kids' Halloween costumes, created an early version of Boba Fett prior to the release of *The Empire Strikes Back*. The costume, released in *Star Wars* packaging, had silver on the helmet, foreshadowing Jango Fett's armor over two decades before that character was designed.

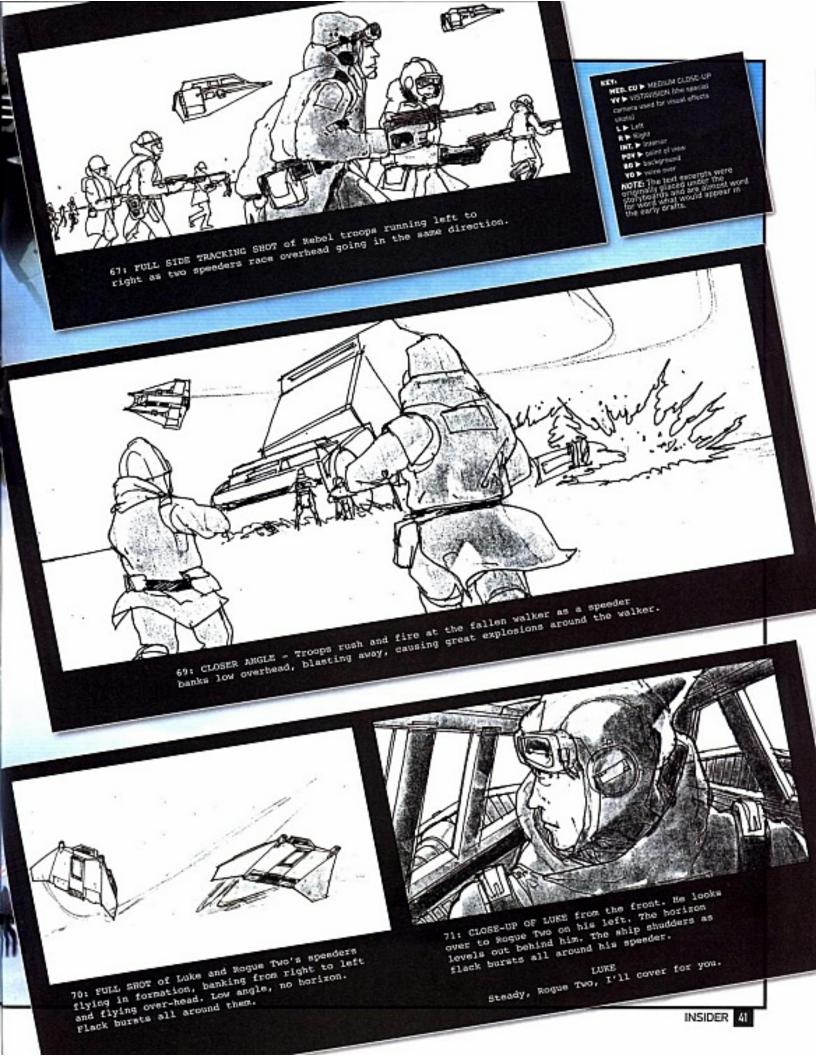
[3] For many, the Star Wars Holiday Special in November, 1978 was their introduction to Boba Fett. In a 10-minute animated segment that was a highlight of the show, Fett befriends Luke Skywalker white secretly working for the Empire. The Holiday Special Fett armor was more colorful than the version in Empire, and it would take a couple of decades before Boba Fett appeared in the original Holiday Special likeness on merchandise. One brilliantly crafted example was the animated Boba Fett maquette that Gentle Giant made as a Star Wars Celebration IV exclusive. With flowing cape and pointed blaster, the piece was a repainted version of Gentle Giant's original Boba Fett maquette. There's even a rare black and white version of the Fett maquette that was only sold in Japan.

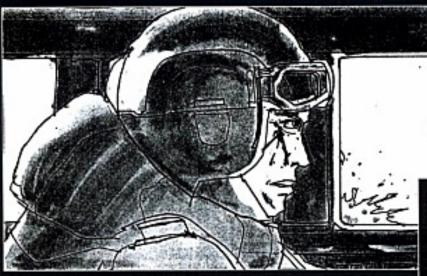
(4) In advance of the release of The Empire Strikes Back, Kenner Products began promoting the action figure line with its first action figure mail-away offer. A Boba Fett with a rocket-firing feature was heavily marketed on Kenner's Star Wars products. However, due to concerns about safety, the rocket-firing feature would never make it to market. Prototypes of the rocket-firing Boba Fett are the quintessential collector's Holy Grail.









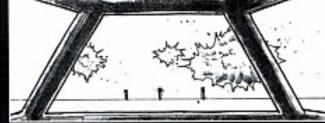


72: SIDE CLOSE-UP ANGLE on Roque Two. Luke's speeder can be seen in the background. The speeders are moving left to right. Rogue Two is wounded in the face. [NOTE: By the fifth draft, Roque Two was named Zev.]

ROGUE TWO It's no good, I can't see.

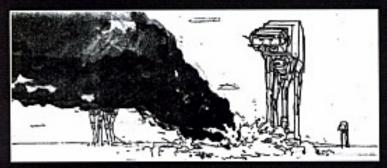
LUKE (VO) Steady, just keep it steady.

The ship bounces under the constant impact of flack.



73: LUKE'S POV OUT THE SPEEDER window at the distant oncoming walker as flack bursts on all sides. Laser bolts streak past.

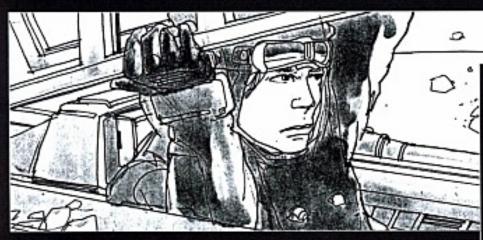
> LUKE I'll lead you in.



75; PULL SHOT of encoming walkers in distance as Luke's speeder races over camera moving left to right trailing smoke and flames. The speeder crashes into the snow a few yards in front of the walker.



76: INT. CLOSE-UP inside Luke's cockpit as he struggles to get out. He gets desperate as he looks out of the cockpit window.



80: SIDE ANGLE CLOSE-UP from inside the cockpit as Luke manages to get the hatch open and pulls himself out. The ship shakes from the approaching walker.



81: EXTREME CLOSE-UP of giant walking foot as it comes crashing to the ground, sending snow in all directions.



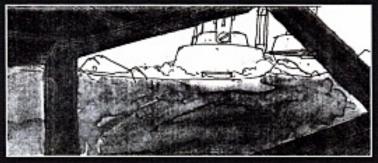
74: CLOSE-UP FRONT Luke works his controls, as the ship shudders under the impact. He keeps looking screen left to Roque Two.

LUKE Is your gunner alright?

ROGUE TWO GUNNER (VO) I'm O.K., sir.

LUKE Just keep it steady. Don't try to...

Luke's speeder is rocked by a huge explosion, and a loud metal scream drowns out Luke's sentence. He struggles with the controls as a look of terror crosses his face. Smoke pours out the back and the horizon twists.



77: LUKE'S POV out cockpit window of giant walker feet crunching even closer. The ship shudders under the impact of the huge metal feet pounding the ice plain.



78: CLOSE-UP FRONT Reque Two, blood streaming down his face, struggles with his controls. The flack is murder.

ROGUE TWO Luke ... What happened, I can't ...

The cockpit explodes in a ball of flames.



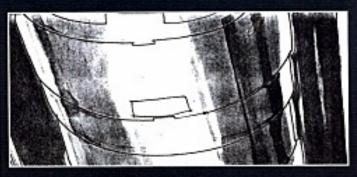
82: NED FULL SHOT (looking back at Luke, away from walker) as Luke climbs out of the speeder and starts to run forward. The ominous shadow of the huge walker falls over him as he looks up at the approaching monster. The ground shakes under the impact of the pounding feet. Luke gets an idea and runs back to the speeder, reaching inside the cockpit for something. Camera dollies in with him.



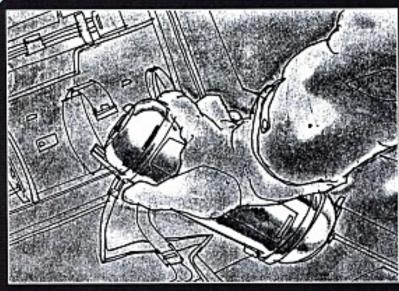




84: MED CLOSE-UP as Luke runmages through the smoldering speeder and comes up with a climbing gun. Luke looks up, and ducks as the front foot of the walker comes crashing down right behind him, shaking the speeder violently. He reaches back in the cockpit for something else, glancing up with a worried look.



85: LUKE'S POV of the moving underbelly of the huge Walker [No. 2 in the fifth draft] as it passes over his head.

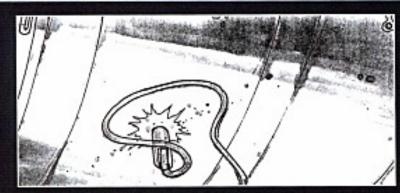


87: CLOSE-UP Luke's arm inside the speeder. He grabs a hold of a large landmine-type bomb and pulls it out of the speeder cockpit.

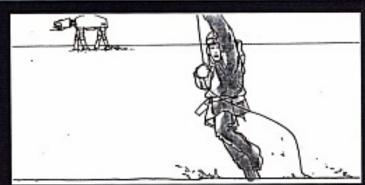




88: NED FULL SIDE VIEW as Luke pulls the landnine out of the cockpit and leaps away just as the huge black foot of the walker comes crashing down on the tiny speeder. The Rebel vehicle is crushed flat by the powerful walker.



91: CLOSE-UP OF MAGNETIC head and cable attaching itself on the underbelly of the walker. The cable is pulled tight as Luke tests it.



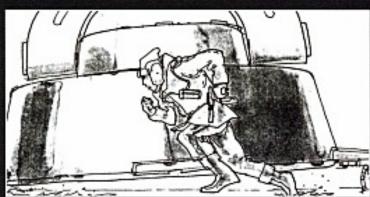
92: MED SHOT of Luke running and climbing up the cable. The second walker can be seen R to L in the BG.



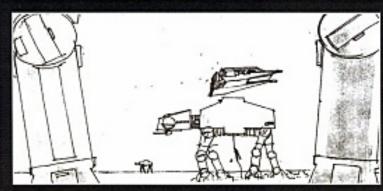
86: CLOSE-UP of Luke outside the speeder as he searches the cockpit, straining to reach inside.



89: MED CLOSE-UP of Luke as he stumbles up out of the snow and runs toward camera slightly left to right chasing after the lumbering walker. He hooks the landmine around his neck.



90: MED PAN PAST the back legs of the walker following Luke as he runs under the monstrous machine and fires the gun at the underbelly of the walker, directly above him. A thin cable follows the projectile from the gun. Another walker can be seen in the BG moving R to L.



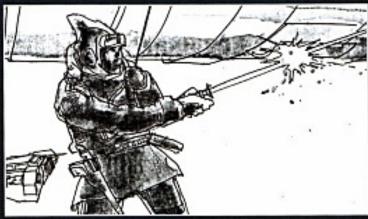
93: EXTREME LONG SHOT of Luke dangling from the underbelly of the walker, moving R to L. A second walker is in the BG moving R to L. Third walker moves through the foreground with a speeder.



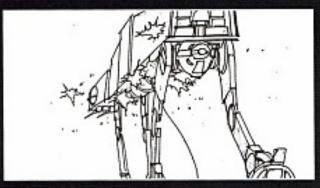
94: MED CLOSE-UP of Luke climbing the cable to the underbelly of the walker going right to left. The two Rebel speeders pass in the background. Flack bursts in the distance.



95: HIGH ANGLE LOOKING down at Luke as he climbs the cable into a close shot. The walker's giant feet are seen pounding across the moving snow. Stray laser bolts pass him as he swings.



96: MED SIDE SHOT of Luke as he reaches the hull of the walker next to a small hatch. Luke, hanging precariously, cuts the solid metal hatch with his laser-sword.



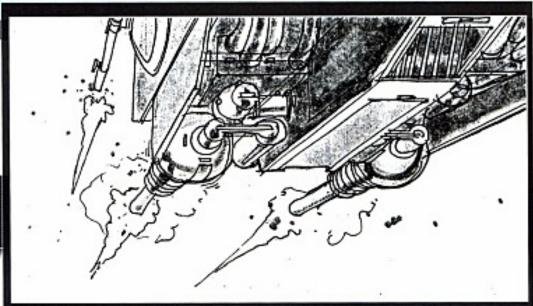
99: 3/4 REAR LOW ANGLE SHOT of the giant walker. It stops in midstep. A muffled explosion is heard, then the insides of the giant walker come blasting out every conceivable opening. It sits dead in its tracks, smoking like a locomotive on stilts.



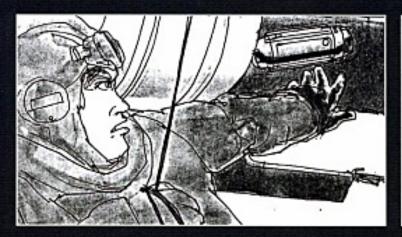
100: CLOSE over the shoulder of walker pilot. POV of Rebel troops and power generators. Veers steps into the frame.



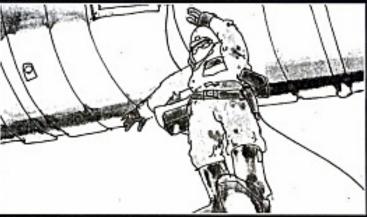
105: HIGH ANGLE of troops fleeing and firing back toward camera.



106: BACK CLOSE-UP of guns on walker-head, firing.



97: CLOSE SIDE ANGLE of Luke taking the landmine from around his neck and placing it inside the Imperial machine. He closes the hatch and starts sown the cable, fast.



98; LOW ANGLE looking up at the walker as Luke slides down the cable, then drops past camera.



101: REVERSE CLOSE-UP of Veers as he studies various readouts.



102: NED SHOT - Rebel troops retreat under the onslaught.

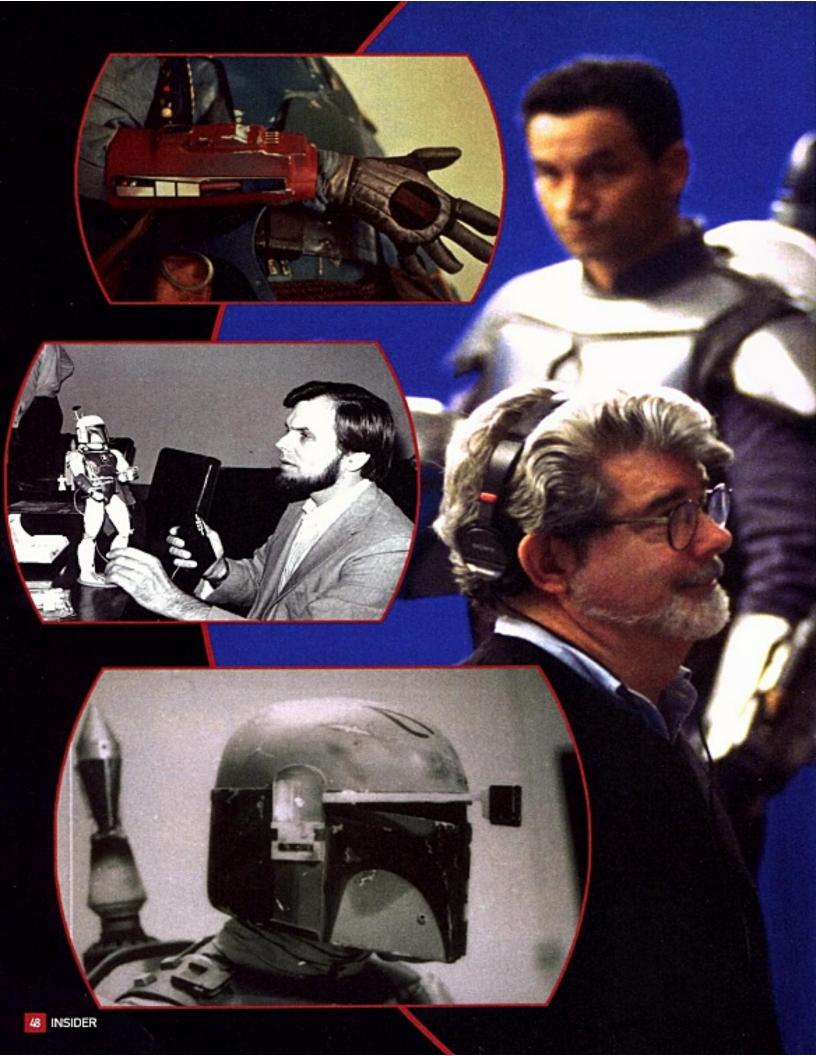
INSIDER 47

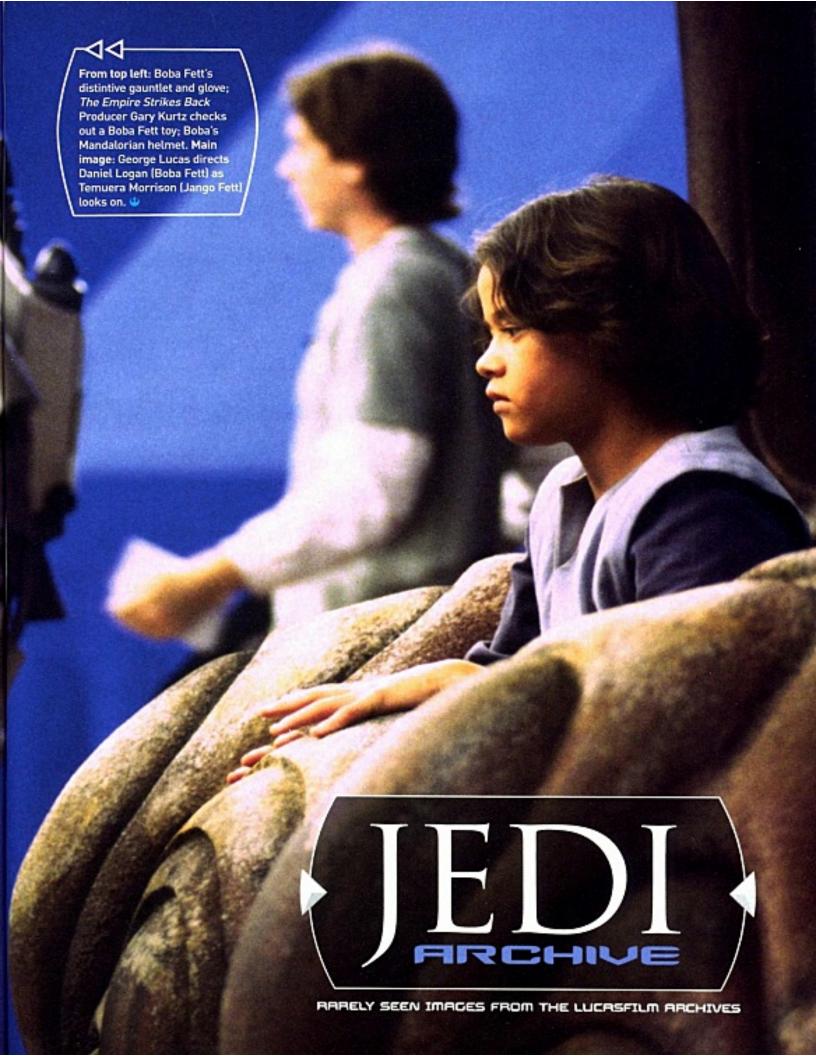
PILOT All resistance is fading.

VEERS

Good, we have them now. Prepare to target the main generator.







THE ORCHESTRA

JOHN WILLIAMS' MUSIC TAKES CENTER STAGE AS STAR WARS IN CONCERT LAUNCHES THE LEGENDARY TALE TO A NEW LEVEL! SCOTT CHERNOFF HAD A FRONT ROW SEAT...

ome things were impossible to miss; mainly the eye-popping visuals projected on a 100foot, three-story-tall HD "super-screen," presenting iconic images from the Star Wars saga in a clarity never before seen. Then there was the dynamic, thrilling, and at times hauntingly beautiful music rising from the 86-piece orchestra and 60-voice choir-front and center on the enormous stage, commanding our attention with every new note. And, of course, the palpable excitement and energy of fans filling the theater and people of all ages coming together to experience, live, the music that shaped so many memories.

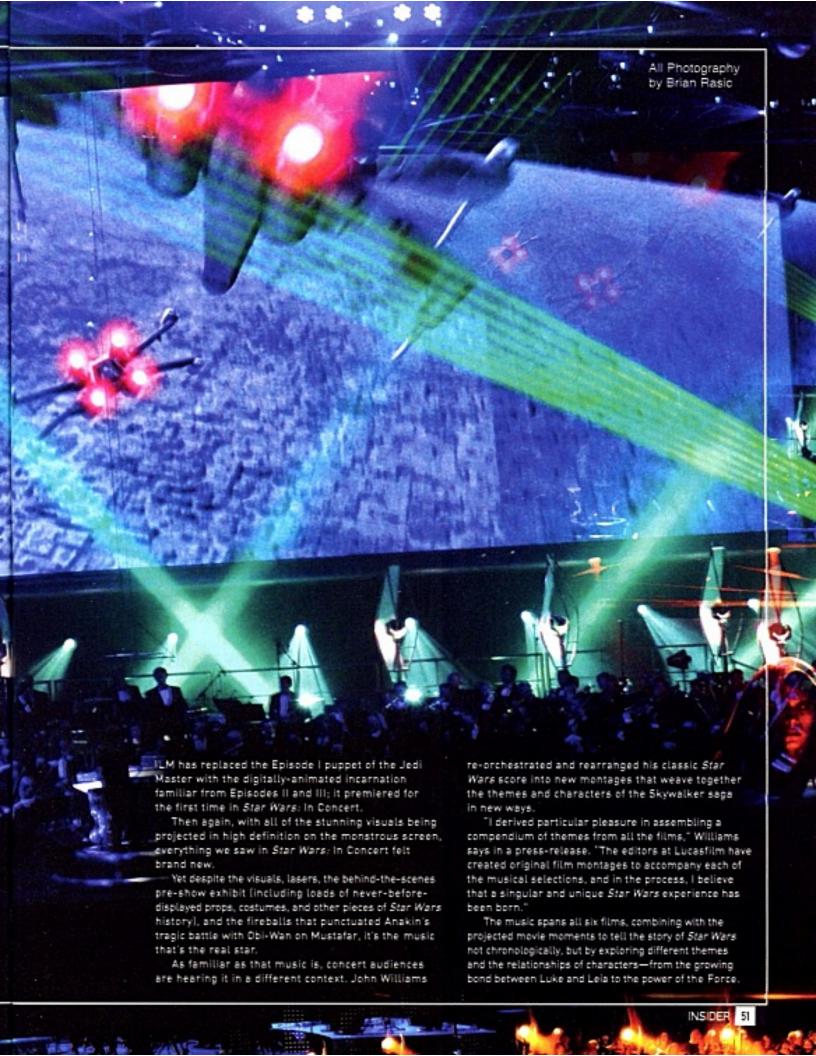
But when Star Wars Insider attended the performance of Star Wars: In Concert at the Nokia Theater in Los Angeles recently, we also noticed

some smaller, unheralded, but no less legendary moments-including some brand-new additions to the Star Wars universe that made their debuts at the event without any fanfare.

One of those was obvious, and fun—a newlyrecorded introduction by James Earl Jones as Darth Vader, the first time Jones has performed the character since Revenge of the Sith in 2005.

But one new element was overlooked by all but the more sharp-eyed Star Wars fans.

Popping up amid one of the concert's dazzling montages of re-edited scenes from all six Star Wars episodes, and flashing by quickly enough to go unnoticed by those caught up in the montage, was a brand new Yoda from 1999's The Phantom Menace, digitally remastered for a new decade.





As George Lucas put if in a pressrelease,, "We've taken the key themes from the music and cut together all the images that fit with each theme, so you can really get a sense of how the music played into the images. The whole soundtrack is a testament to John Williams' creativity and his extraordinary ability to enhance the emotional aspects of the films."

Introducing each musical passage is the show's on-stage narrator, master of ceremonies, and secret weapon, actor Anthony Daniels. Freed from his golden C-3PO costume, Daniels proves to be a charming, engaging, and authoritative host, leading audiences through moments of levity, philosophy, and wonder.

Daniels tells Star Wars Insider that conveying that story was a challenge he relished—and feared. "I felt absolutely humbled by the scale," he says, "It's a spectacular event based on a story that the audience knows in and out, roundabout and backwards—but viewed from a different angle and in a different light, with a different emphasis.

"I am the host," Daniels continues,
"and if you think back to that early film
where C-3PO says, "I'm not very good at
telling stories,"—well, boy, I am now
re-telling probably the second-biggest
story ever and hopefully making it interesting.
Around the world, everybody knows it.
But we're telling it in a different way."

The combination of Daniels' narration, Lucas' visuals, and John Williams' new arrangements comes together under the inspired direction of the event's director and designer, Steve Cohen. But the true unsung hero of the evening is conductor Dirk Brossé, under whose baton the 144 singers and musicians perform the music with precision and passion. "You know, I've watched John Williams doing scoring sessions at Abbey Road Studies," Daniels says, "and I had marveled at his synching his music to picture. But here we have Dirk Brossé, doing the same thing, but with an audience, live, night

after night. You can't do a re-take. He has to be completely in tune with the orchestra and the choir—and they are watching his baton like you wouldn't believe. They are riveted to him. He's absolutely on the button, and it's thrilling."

Indeed, on the night insider attended, the orchestra was perfect, its sound soaring throughout the Nokia Theater, putting the spotlight at last on the myriad of musicians whose talents combine to create something truly transcendent.

"There are quite a few sequences where you only see the live orchestra playing onscreen in close-ups and medium shots," Daniels says, "so for many people it can be instructive, to see how music is made. A lot of us just accept music as a chunk of





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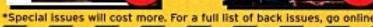


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BOOKS

A HERO FACES A SURPRISE FROM THE PAST IN STAR WARS: CROSSCURRENT WORDS: DANIEL WALLACE "Readers know what to expect from Luke and Han, but won't know what they're getting with Jaden."

HISTORY'S MYSTERY

far Wars novels have been set in the ancient past and the far future, but the disparate eras have never clashed head-to-head until now. In Paul Kemp's Crosscurrent, a starship from the era of the Sith Wars suddenly surfaces thousands of years later (37 years after the fall of Palpatine to be exact)—and it falls to a single Jedi to straighten out the mess.

"Failed relativity shielding and a hyperspace jump gone awry," explains Kemp, when asked how the ship is able to make the chronological shift—with its passengers still alive. "In other words, time dilation."

But it's the passengers that are the real problem: A full force of Sith and a cargo of weapons-grade ore threatens to overturn the galactic order. Though there's one Jedi—Relin—already aboard the vessel, his efforts to stop the Sith aren't necessarily helped by the arrival of a Jedi from the current era since both are outnumbered and outgunned.

Jaden Korr, the modern Jedi charged with ending the threat, is a pre-existing but minor character in the Star Wars Expanded Universe who made his debut as the player-controlled protagonist of the LucasArts game Star Wars Jedi Knight: Jedi Academy. "Jaden was a great fit," explains Kemp, "Readers know what to expect from Luke and Han, but won't know what they're getting with Jaden. The readers know bits of his history, but don't know him at all. As a boy, he crafted his own lightsaber. As a young man, he received training from Kyle Katarn, who dabbled in powers typically associated with the dark side such as Force lightning. In Kyle, this represented a broad understanding of the Force. But to Jaden, looking in from the outside, it represented ambiguity. In my mind, this created in Jaden the potential to achieve the kind of

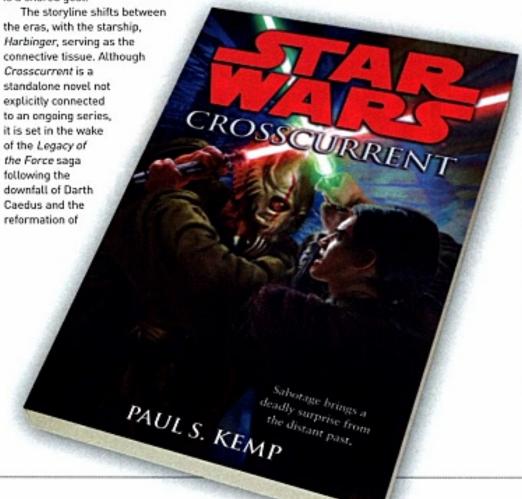
understanding embodied by Kyle, but also, perhaps, a greater propensity for a fall."

Crosscurrent begins with Jaden in the midst of this crisis, as he evaluates his relationship to the Force and what his past suggests about it. His encounter with a Jedi of the Old Republic is another opportunity for insight.

"Jaden and Relin meet at a moment when both are struggling with a personal crisis," says Kemp. "Their respective crises differ, but each can see in the other a possible future for himself though stopping a Sith threat, obviously, is a shared goal." the Galactic Alliance. It also ties into the era of the Golden Age of the Sith and Fall of the Sith Empire comics series, as well as the e-book Lost Tribe of the Sith: Precipice, which details the fate of Harbinger's sister ship, Omen.

Crasscurrent might bounce between the past and present, but Kemp promises to keep the future in his sights. "There is one plot thread that I hope readers find very interesting. I leave it open, and it's this storyline that will provide the springboard for the sequel to Crosscurrent."

See excerpt starting on page 58....



SHADOW GAMES

ENTER THE WORLD OF SPIES AND ASSASSINS IN GALAXY OF INTRIGUE

Han Solo might have preferred a straight fight to sneaking around, but his bantha-in-a-china-shop tactics often

backfired. For gamers who prefer a more subtle approach, the ways of the roque are laid bare in Galaxy of Intrigue, the latest sourcebook for the Star Wars Roleplaying Game. It's clearly intended for players drawn to a sneakier character type.

It's a book about espionage, assassination, lies, deceit, trickery, conspiracies, and secrets," says Wizards of the Coast game designer Rodney Thompson. "It's geared toward nobles and scoundrels in the same way that the recent Galaxy at War was geared toward soldiers, but there's plenty of information useful to all players."

For the first time in the Star Wars Saga Edition, expect to see new rules for skill challenges, which provide frameworks for

gamemasters to run skill-based scenes that immediately determine success, failure, and experience points. Galaxy

> of Intrigue also features a guide to creating intrigue-based games, detailed profiles of secretive factions such as Imperial Intelligence and the Tapani Sector nobles, as well as full-length and mini-adventures.

A significant chunk of new material is dedicated to an original planet, Nyriaan, which is described by Thompson as a hotbed of intrigue. The world is designed to facilitate intrigue and infighting between a few major factions including the Corporate Sector Authority, the Mining Guild, and a few others," he says.

Want to know more? You can call off the Bothan spies: Galaxy of Intrigue is available in bookstores everywhere starting January 19.







I'm trying to verify the ears of the female Twi'lek. The males are shown with human ears, but I can't find an image of a female without headgear to verify if the cones are her ears or part of the headgear, as these cones aren't necessarily the same color as the tentacles.

The cones coming out of the sides replace the ears of the female Twi leks. They are part of their head, not an attachment to the headpiece. Ools in Return of the Jedi and most background female Twilleks in The Clone Wars have white cones, while Numa and all the female Twi'leks in the prequels have cones that match their skin color. Shiri'ani, a character from the Star Wars Roleplaying Game, is an example of a Twi lek without the full headgear, so you can see what they look like without the human-like ears. Some older images from the EU depicted female Twileks with human-like ears. We originally considered this as non-continuity, but there is the possibility that they are partially human. (Yes, you heard right. Twileks and humans can interbreed.)



BOOKS CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

CROSSCURRENT

BY PAUL S. KEMP

THE PAST: 5,000 YEARS BEFORE THE BATTLE OF YAVIN

elin started to lose forward momentum the instant he leapt clear of the air lock. He activated the magnetic grips in his gloves and boots as he fell. Time seemed to slow as he plummeted toward the transport, and an image of the transport against the background of stars burned itself into his memory. Remaining focused, holding the ship in his telekinetic grasp, he steered his descent and reeled himself in. He could not afford to slow himself with the Force, so he hit the surface of the ship hard, thumping his helmet on the hull and for a moment scrambling the HUD.

The transport lurched the moment he alighted, and the sudden shift in momentum nearly threw him. He cursed and grabbed the protuberances nearest to hand. The Force and his magnetic grips kept him anchored. For an instant he feared a scan by the transport crew had detected his presence, but the ship had swerved left and down, probably an evasive maneuver in response to the detection of the Infiltrator. Drey would be under pressure soon. Relin had to move fast.

He hung on to the transport as it sped toward the dreadnoughts. Harbinger and Omen had long, sleek bodies dotted everywhere with batteries of rotating laser cannon turrets, typically used for ship-toship combat. As he watched, the cannons rotated in the direction of the Infiltrator, but they would have difficulty getting a fix on the small, stealth-equipped starfighter. Within moments a rapid reaction squad of Sith fighters, like flying knives, streaked from the bay.

Incoming," he said to Drev over the encrypted channel. Ten Blade-class

fighters. Stay among the smaller craft and the dreadnoughts will not fire."

He glanced back but could not see Drev and the Infiltrator, could see only the dark side of Phaegon III, a handful of the transport shuttles going evasive, and the floating rock of the dead moon. He returned his gaze to the dreadnoughts and locused on his mission. The transport was making for Harbinger, Interior lights from observation decks and viewports flickered here and there along Harbinger's and Omen's lengths. In shape, the dreadnoughts reminded Relin of gigantic lanvaroks, the bladed polearm favored by the Sith. The tumors of bubble-

Within moments a rapid reaction squad of Sith fighters, like flying knives, streaked from the bay...

shaped escape pods lined the spine that connected the forward bridge section to the aft engine and landing bay sections.

Like most Jedi, he'd studied the available schematics of 5ith starships. He knew their layout. And he knew where he was going once he got aboard. The transport straightened its course, descended a bit, and headed for the bay. Relin estimated time of arrival, removed three of the maggrenades from his flexsuit, and crawled along the transport as fast as he dared until he reached the housing for the engine nacelles. He stuck all three charges to one of the nacelles and waited. The moment the transport cleared the landing bay's shielding and started to slow, he activated them, put them on a ten-second timer, and began

counting down in his head. Two more Blades sped past him and out of the ship. Ten... nine... He worried for Drev. His Padawan was an extraordinary pilot, but the sky would be thick with Sith fighters. Relin would have to be fast. Eight... seven...

The activity in the landing bay gave it the appearance of an Eesin hive. Pilots in full gear were carted in levs to their Blades. Droids wheeled and walked here and there. Organics and machines unloaded open transports and loaded what looked like raw ore onto lev pallets.

The sight of the ore, the greasy feel of it, made Relin gueasy. He remembered a moment years before when he and Saes, then still a Jedi, had happened upon a crystal that enhanced a dark side user's connection to the Force. He shuffled through his memory until he recalled the name of the ore-Lignan. The feel of it was the same. It had to be the same material. He had never imagined there could be so much.

A female voice on the loudspeaker announced commands. "Cargo droid team four to landing bay one-sixty-three-bee." Relin reached out with the Force and felt the minds around him as the transport settled into a landing bay and powered down its erigines. Autoclamps secured its skids and gases vented with a hiss. Relin discerned ten or so beings nearby, none a Force-user, att weak-minded. Six... five... four... Using the Force, he entered their minds and erased himself from their perception. Three... two... He leapt from the ship, hit the floor in a roll, found his feet, and ran. Augmenting his speed with the Force, he covered a hundred meters in the tick of a chrono. Zero.

Released on January 26 by Del Rey Books priced \$7.99



PAUL S. KEMP

Star Wars Insiden How did you come to write a Star Wars novel?

Paul S. Kemp: I'd wanted to do it for a long time. Years ago, when Dave Gross edited Star Wars Insider, I pestered him about doing some short fiction for the magazine (Dave and I are friends who worked together on another project). For a variety of reasons, that never worked out. Some time later, I contacted Shelly Shapiro at Del Rey, and she was gracious enough to look at one of my earlier novels. I think she thought I'd be a good fit for Star Wars fiction.

How long did the book take to write? About eight months, if memory serves.

Was it easy to go from writing fantasy to writing Star Wars fiction? Do you see Star Wars as more fantasy than science fiction? It was easy in the sense that Star Wars fiction has a lot in common with the kind of fantasy fiction I've written in the past. It has cinematic action and almost larger-than-life heroes and villains. But it was difficult in that I had an awful lot of information and lore to digest. I really like to weave a story into a setting, so I try very hard to learn its details and nuances before sitting down to write.

Do you have a favorite scene in the book? If I had to name a particular sequence, it'd be the point at which *Harbinger* appears. Relin gets aboard Junker, and all hell breaks loose. The sequel to Crosscurrent is on the way.

Can you drop any hints as to what we can expect?

I'm in the process of outlining it, but another Star Wars project interposed itself and has been occupying most of my time at the moment. I'm not allowed to drop any hints about the sequel just yet, but I think those who read Crosscurrent will have a pretty good idea of where the sequel is going to go.

COMICS

STAR WARS: INVASION REVEALS SECRETS ABOUT A MYSTERIOUS

PAST WORDS: DANIEL WALLACE

FIXING A HOLE





he Yuuzhan Vong war was one of the most devastating events in the Star Wars Expanded Universe, as alien aggressors annihilated everything in their path and shredded the galactic peace that existed 20 years after Return of the Jedi.

Rather than retell the events of the New Jedi Order book series that chronicled the war from 1999 to 2003. Dark Horse's Invasion comics have instead introduced their own cast of characters-and are prepared to explode a minefield of deeply-buried secrets now that the series has hit its storytelling stride.

"On the face of it, Invasion has looked fairly simple, but believe me, nothing is as it seems," says writer Tom Taylor. "We've had a pile of familiar cameos to get people on board, but with this arc our characters take the lead."

Among these new Star Wars stars are Finn Galfridian, a Force-sensitive member of the Artorias royal family who finds guidance at Luke Skywalker's Jedi academy. Questions surround Finn's past, as well as those of his father, mother, and sister Kaye, who is "stronger and far more capable than she should be," hints Taylor.

Artist Colin Wilson is happy to be working in such a distinctive era of Star Wars history. The Yuuzhan Vong present a design challenge far different from that of the Empire or Separatists. "The real key to their appearance and technology was when my 11-year old son Louis saw some of the spaceship designs and thought they looked like underwater craft," he says. "Things fell into place from there. Despite global warming, here in Australia we've still got a little left of the Great Barrier Reef, which is a great basis for the transparent, luminous organic feel of the interiors of the Yong spacecraft. In closeup, a lot of Yong technology would have





"We won't be avoiding big events that relate to our characters, like the attack on Yavin 4."

surface detail like brain coral, patterns that would change texture and color with whatever activity was going on at the time. It could be something like the reef experience itself, constantly moving with color changes and mood swings, and yet alien and threatening to humans."

Taylor promises more surprises, struggles, and sinister villainy as the series blazes its own trail, including the introduction of an antagonist in the ferocious Yuuzhan Vong warrior Tsalok. Yows Taylor, "Nothing, be it man, child, or kitten, will stand in his way."

Ultimately, Invasion will be just as important to the Yuuzhan Vong war story as the novels. "We won't be avoiding bigevents that relate to our characters, like the attack on Yavin 4," Taylor says. "But the Galfridian family and our other characters have huge roles in the war. The Yuuzhan Vong will know the name Galfridian." 4





COMICS

Art by Daxlong

DAGOBAH DAYS STAR WARS ADVENTURES FILLS GAPS IN LUKE'S TRAINING!

o become a Jedi Knight, Luke had to do a lot more than lift rocks! The Empire Strikes Back showed us only a small portion of the challenges laid out by Yoda for Luke's Jedi training. The latest Star Wars Adventures volume, Luke Skywalker and the Treasure of the Dragonsnakes, helps fill in the gaps.

Writer Tom Taylor explains that Luke is one of his heroes, and the opportunity to tell an untold story of Luke and Yoda is one he never thought he'd get to tackle. "It's like being incredibly thirsty and being offered a glass of water," he says. You just take it.

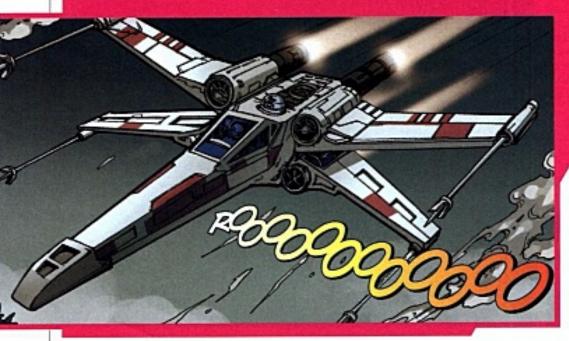
Treasure of the Dragonsnakes is one tale out of four that Taylor proposed for future installments of Star Wars

Adventures. A story centering on Han, Leia, and Lando is in the works, but Taylor's next volume will take a more villainous turn with Star Wars Adventures: The Will of Darth Vader.

Illustrated by rising star Daxiong, Luke Skywalker and the Treasure of the Dragonsnakes is out January 20. Taylor, writer of both Star Wars Adventures and the Invasion series (see main story), keeps the "all ages" theme in mind when working on Adventures



I'm a trained childcare worker and spent a lot of years teaching circus skills to schoolaged kids, as well as writing and directing theater for young people, so I'm very used to gearing things toward this age group," he says. 'With this book in particular, I wanted to be able to hand it to my four-year old son and say, "Here, Daddy wrote this." I can't really do that with Invasion. Here, see that moment when the man gets stabbed through the stomach by the snake thing? Daddy wrote that! Why are you crying?







by Hugh Fleming

200





UNDERWORLD ASCENDANT SEE THE GALAXY'S SEEDIER SIDE IN STAR WARS OMNIBUS: SHADOWS OF THE EMPIRE!

The struggle for power in the Star Wars galaxy is more complex than Rebels vs. Empire. In Star Wars Omnibus: Shadows of the Empire, you'll meet Prince Xizor-a criminal kingpin who puts Jabba to shame-and discover what happens to the underworld after both Xizor and the Emperor exit the scene. The 400-page Omnibus collects the following:

Shadows of the Empire (John Wagner, Kilian Plunkett): Set between The Empire Strikes Back and Return of the Jedi, this tale pits Luke and Leia against Xizor as Boba Fett delivers Han Solo's carbonite slab to Jabba the Hutt.

Shadows of the Empire: Evolution (Steve Perry, Ron Randall): After the time of Jedi, Xizor's human-replica droid Guri tries to rewire her murderous programming as various gangsters vie to be the new kingpin.

Mara Jade: By the Emperor's Hand [Timothy Zahn & Michael Stackpole, Carlos Ezquerra): Following Palpatine's death, his former assassin tries to start a new life as other Imperial agents try their best to liquidate her.







The Clone Wars

The Clone Wars action figures expand into 2010 with another wave of favorite animated characters, each with a suggested retail price of \$7.99 and available now. This wave is made up of Captain Rex, Anakin Skywalker, Obi-Wan Kenobi, Yoda, "Matchstick," Count Dooku, Clone Commander Thire's trooper, Clone Commander Bly, Weequay pirate chief Hondo Ohnaka, and Jedi Master Aayla Secura.



Galactic Heroes ▶

Hasbro's popular Galactic Heroes line continues with a new wave this January, including Anakin Skywalker and an ARF trooper; Obi Wan Kenobi and Commander Fil; gunner trooper and battle droid with jetpack; Darth Vader and stormtrooper; spider droid and clone trooper; Mace Windu and clone trooper; Kit Fisto and General Grievous; and Ahsoka Tano and "Goldie."

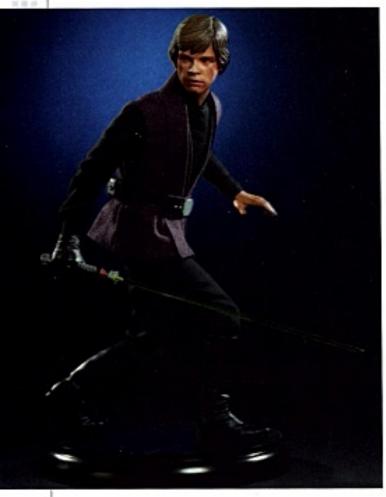


INCOMING continues next page



Coruscant Clone Trooper 12" Figure ▼

Joining the ranks of Sideshow's 12-inch military figures of the Star Wars collection is the 41st Elite Corps: Coruscant Clone Trooper, Distinguished by the gray flashes on his armor, the 41st Elite Corps trooper has over 30 points of articulation and is estimated to ship in the second quarter of 2010.





LEG0

◆ ARC-170 Starfighter

LEGO builders can construct the heavily armored, multi-purpose ARC-170 starfighter, which is perfect for scouting missions and leading raids on the Separatist droid army. It includes 396 pieces, including two clone pilots, Jedi Master Kit Fisto, and R4-P44 astromech droid minifigures, and is available in January for \$59.99.

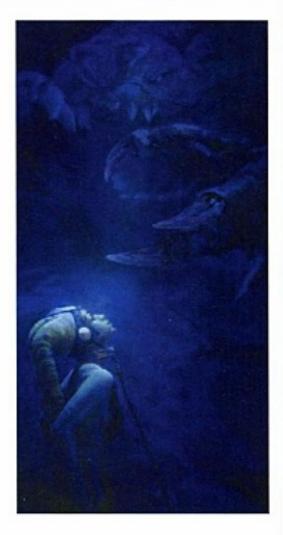


"Out of the Shadows" by William Silvers

This depiction of Jabba's palace dancer Oola in her final moments is limited to 95 pieces on canvas and measures 15x30. Signed by the artist, the giclée canvas retails for \$350, "Out of the Shadows" is also available on paper measuring 12x24, unsigned, for \$175.

"Wanted" by JAKe ▼

This take on The Empire Strikes Back's ever-popular bounty hunters depicts the fearless criminal syndicate in search of Rebel Alliance hero Chewbacca. A 125-piece edition, "Wanted" retails for \$95, and measures 13x19.



Hoth wampas eat tauntauns (and humans apparently, given a chance). What, on Hoth, do tauntauns eat on that frozen wasteland of a planet? Also - how many wampas attacked Luke?

Peter Tuck, Scotland

A tauntaun's diet consists of lichens and moss, as well as a fungal growth found just beneath Hoth's frost layer. They forage only during the day, usually traveling in large herds, and then return to caves when night falls. As a side note, tauntauns get their unique smell from tiny pores on the creature's skin which exude waste products and oils, resulting in a terrible stench that clings to the animal.

To explain the discrepancy between the look of the wampa that attacks Luke and his tauntaun, and the look of the wampa Luke fights in the cave, Inside the Worlds of Star Wars Trilogy explains that the first wampa was a male and the second was a female. In the novel Darksaber, Luke has another encounter with that wampa from the cave, dubbed "One-Arm."



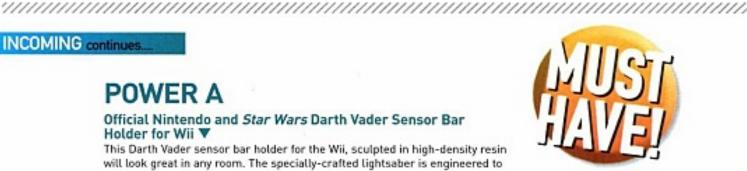


INCOMING continues next page

POWER A

Official Nintendo and Star Wars Darth Vader Sensor Bar Holder for Wii Y

This Darth Vader sensor bar holder for the Wii, sculpted in high-density resin will look great in any room. The specially-crafted lightsaber is engineered to safely support the sensor bar while maintaining full range and performance.







Why didn't Obi-Wan and Luke change their surnames when they were in hiding on Tatooine?

Let's start with Obi-Wan. He's a hermit remote planet that Obi-Wan knows that Anakin hates going to, Obi-Wan's not gonna be throwing his name around everywhere he goes, aside from the Larses and maybe some close neighbors Still, he adopts the first name Ben just in case. It was Owen and Beru's decision to case. It was Owen and Beru's decision to give Luke the last name Skywalker in reverence to Owen's stepmother and Luke's grandmother, Shmi Skywalker. Granted, Anakin Skywalker made a name for himself throughout the galaxy as a hero of the Clone Wars, though he also made a name for himself on Tatooine, as the a name for himself on Tatooine, as the only human to compete in and win the Boonta Eve Podrace. And yet, throughout his childhood, Luke never knew anything about a Skywalker being a great Jedi or a famous Podracer. We can only assume that there are many other Skywalkers in the galaxy and Luke never made the connection or heard of these stories.

Official Star Wars Light-Up Anakin's Lightsaber and Yoda's Lightsaber

Each of these light-up lightsabers for the Wii is an authentic replica of either Anakin's or Yoda's lightsaber, with a sculpted hilt unique to each character. The Wii Remote fits safely and easily into the lightsaber handle, while the on/off LED feature produces a realistic light-up experience, turning an ordinary player into a Jedi Knight. Available in the Dueling Pack and individually.





eFX

Stunt lightsabers

eFX is launching its new line of precision-cast replica "stunt" lightsabers. Cast in high quality resin with internal support armature, each of these lightweight 1:1 lightsaber replicas retails for \$99, comes with a unique plaque and display stand, and can even be attached to your belt for easy wear. They are available now, and you can choose between the Luke Skywalker lightsaber from Return of the Jedi; or the Obi-Wan Kenobi, Anakin Skywalker, and Count Dooku lightsabers, all from Revenge of the Sith. V





Build a custom LEGO Star Wars adventure with this sturdy protective case that wraps completely around a DS Lite. The case top and bottom each feature a LEGO platform that can be built on with real LEGO pieces or mounted onto other LEGO surfaces. The case also comes with removable LEGO scene tiles depicting Star Wars art, which can be rearranged or used to bring Star Wars to other LEGO creations!



A GALAXY NOT

A LONG TIME AGO, TOPPS BECAME ONE OF THE FIRST STAR WARS LICENSEES, AND THAT LEGACY CONTINUES WITH THE RELEASE OF ITS LATEST CARD SET, STAR WARS GALAXY SERIES 5. WORDS: CHRIS SPITALE



How did the idea for Star Wars Galaxy first come about?

Topps was doing comics in the early 1990s, and was working with many of the best artists in the industry. We were asked to create a product around the 15th anniversary of the theatrical release of Star Wars, so we tapped into that talent pool. Many of those

tapped into that talent pool. Many of those artists grew up with Star Wars, and many considered it a substantial influence on their work. In short, it was an incredibly creative way to celebrate the 15th anniversary because the set contained both older and newly-commissioned art.

How did the Star Wars Galaxy series get resurrected in 2009?

It was something that had been percolating for some time. We wanted to do a new set, and so did Lucasfilm, so it was just a matter of fitting it in. From 1997 until 2005, there was a lot going on with Star Wars, so Galaxy was pushed back. Galaxy 4 was originally slated for 2007, but we kept rearranging products on the

How wones? The arr past, S

"The point of Star Wars
Galaxy is to show what's
happening between the
lines – extrapolating the
situations that happened
off-screen that you never
actually saw."

schedule until it finally came out in the beginning of 2009.

What are the challenges with producing a new Galaxy set?

There are two. One is to keep the re-used section looking fresh and different from previous releases. It's important to find images that are either rarely seen or not available elsewhere. The second is the commissioning of new art—working out concepts with artists and getting all of the work in on time. Those two challenges are also the best parts for me! I absolutely love when a new piece of art comes in and it's really good, and I get to gush over it. It's an honor to get to know all of the artists involved and to be able to interact with them in a creative manner.

How will this new set differ from previous ones?

The art is more organized and focused. In the past, Star Wars Galaxy has generally been

ne of the Star Wars saga's first licensees, The Topps Company, Inc., released its first Star Wars card set in 1977. More than 34 years and over 40 products later, Topps continues to deliver with its upcoming Star Wars Galaxy Series 5 cards, which showcase fantastic new iterations of the saga's most beloved characters as well as rarely-seen merchandise and preproduction artwork.

Star Wars Insider recently spoke to Topps Entertainment Editor David Waldeck to get the complete story on the new 120-card set, scheduled to ship February, 2010.

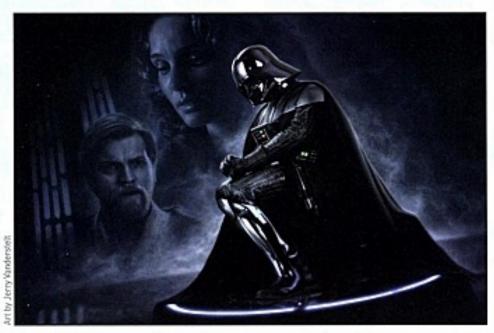
INSIDER: How does it feel to be one of the franchise's oldest merchandising partners?

David Waldeck: Our relationship with Star Wars has been really incredible; it has been a perennial winner for us. Although it's a licensed property, we look at Star Wars as one of our flagship brands in the entertainment department. We wear it like a badge of honor that we've been with it since the beginning!



Art by Adam Hughes

FAR AWAY



a potpourri of creativity, with the subject matter being pretty random, so we decided this time we would work in themes and see what the artists came up with.

How do you determine what to include in the card set?

Regarding artwork for subsets, it's sometimes dictated by what's available. like the Star Wars Unleashed artwork or Japanese manga art. There's enough pre-existing art that hasn't been used, so doing a nine- or 10-card subset made sense. Sometimes, however, we just look around for things that are rare or may not have been seen before or that haven't been included in the Galaxy sets before. Some art is scanned depending on the

quality of the printing or product. Steve Sansweet also helps out by tracking down rare art or offering up something that he comes across that may be a good fit.

What type of art can fans expect in this new Galaxy series?

The New Visions are actually more story-driven this time. There are themes, places, and scenes that are getting explored from brand-new angles. All of the

re-purposed art is also organized more effectively into subsets including manga. Star Wars Celebration prints, and Star Wars Unleashed.

What was the direction given to the New Visions card artists?

This time we assigned different themes. I sent a list of all of the themes out to the artists-six cards for the Battle of Hoth subset, nine cards for the Women of Star Wars subset-and they came back to me with what they wanted to do. As the categories dwindled, we assigned specific characters or situations. For instance, if we had a hole in the cantina or Luke subsets, we would tell the artists that we needed a Luke card that takes place between The Empire

Strikes Back and Return of the Jedi to fill a gap there.

What kind of artwork might get rejected for a Galaxy set?

I'm not partial to artwork that closely resembles reference from the film or that mimics unit photography or a paused scene from a film that's just redrawn. The point of Star Wars Galaxy is to show what's happening between the lines - extrapolating the situations that happened off-screen that

Art by Bruce Timm



you never actually saw. Anything that's not interpretive enough, even if it's rendered

really well, we tend to stay away from.

Who's the most desirable character for the artists to draw?

Slave Leia! Lately, the Clone Wars has been a popular subject, but we shied away from that since we just did three Star Wars: The Clone Wars trading card sets.

How many newly-done works are there?

There are 54 new pieces of commissioned art, including the key art, Randy Martinez also did 15 really awesome new illustrations for the foil cards.

Which artists will be participating in this new set?

The comprehensive list includes Bruce Timm, Randy Martinez, Adam Hughes, Frank Cho, Darwyn Cooke, Cat Staggs, Nathan Hamill, Tom Hodges, Rich Molinelli, Steve McNiven, Joe Corroney, Grant Gould,

Jerry Vanderstelt, Doug Cowan, Mark McHaley, Allison Sohn, Cliff Chiang, Brian Rood, Frank Stockton, David Rabbitte, Mike Lemos, Katie Cook, Patrick Schöenmaker, Stephane Roux, and Matt Busch.

What insert cards can fans look forward to in Galaxy 5?

Autograph cards, the set of foil cards by Randy Martinez, six etched foil cards by Joe Corroney, shaped sketch cards that are done by urban toy artists, and regular one-of-akind sketch cards.

Can fans expect a follow-up to Galaxy 5?

Absolutely! I've already begun collecting imagery, scouring the internet and books, and looking at New Visions sketches for Star Wars Galaxy 6. The New Visions in the next series will likely return to a

slightly more random format, but will be balanced between films and eras. Fans can expect Galaxy 6 sometime in 2011. 4



Doug



Grant



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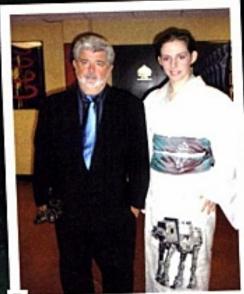
KOTOBUKIYA



CLOWNING WITH A CLONE!

My kids - Sam in his commando armor, and Jason in his Jedi coat -were very excited to meet Dee Bradley Baker at Star Wars Fan Days III in Plano, Texas, in October 2009. As Star Wars: The Clone Wars fans will know, Mr. Baker is the voice of Captain Rex and all of the clone troopers. What you may not know is that he also provides the unique chatter for Perry the Platypus from The Disney Channel's Phineas & Ferb! Mr. Baker was very excited to see a stuffed Perry toy for the first time. He was a great sport to allow Perry to perch on his shoulder for this picture. Phil Grubenhoff, Texas, U.S.A.

WE ALSO HEARD FROM THE FOLLOWING BOUNTY HUNTERS...



72 INSIDER

LUCAS FILMED!

I was backstage at the 2007 Jules Verne Adventure Awards when the man himself walked out of the green room. I normally don't bother celebrities for a photo, but how could I pass up such an incredible opportunity? I was very honored that Mr. Lucas took a moment to pose with me, and thrilled that I was wearing my Star Wars kimono at the time!

Nikki Miyamoto, California, U.S.A

CAN YOU GO ONE BETTER?

DO YOU KNOW NATALIE PORTMAN? ARE YOU FRIENDS WITH FRANK OZ? MAYBE YOU'VE ARM-WRESTLED AHMED BEST? WE WANT TO SEE! SEND PHOTOS OF YOUR ENCOUNTERS WITH THE STARS OF STAR WARS TO: BOUNTY HUNTERS. STAR WARS INSIDER VIA THE CONTACT DETAILS ON PAGE 3 OR EMAIL US AT STARWARSINSIDER@TITANEMAIL.COM



CHATTING TO CHEWIE!

As the Ohio captain for Rebel Legion/Midwest Base, I'm pleased to report on the Screaming Tiki Comic & Pop Culture Con. We were thrilled to have both Peter Mayhew [Chewbacca] and Jeremy Bulloch (Boba Fett/Captain Colton) make an appearance at the inaugural year of this convention in northern Ohio. And the Rebels from "the Buckeye State" made the most of it by presenting both Peter and Jeremy with Midwest Base Honorary Member Awards. The weekend con was a huge success, and all of us from Midwest Base and Ohio Garrison are looking forward to next year! If you're a Star Wars actor and looking for a place to visit, remember... OH-IO! Geoff "Krash" Krickhan, by email



FRIENDS WITH FETT!

This is a picture of my son Adam and me at Collectormania Glasgow in December 2008 where we met Boba Fett himself, Jeremy Bulloch, Adam was delighted to meet the real Boba and Jeremy made his day by signing his Boba Fett phototgraph "To Adam, you're cool." A true gentleman. Rod Lawrence, Aberdeen, U.K.

KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES!

On our anniversary, my wife and I attended the wedding of one of her friends. There were rumors of different celebrities being there, but no one confirmed. Upon seeing James Earl Jones, however, I knew this was my golden opportunity. My wife took the picture while I met and spoke with "Lord Vader." He couldn't have been nicer as I gushed about how great an actor he is. This was truly a wonderful anniversary present getting to meet, talk to, and have my photo taken with one of my idols from Star Wars, and also an icon of our times. Wayne Koch, by email



BY THE FANS FOR THE FANS

TEAM INSPIRE

t often seems that there aren't enough hours in the day to do what I really need to do: event planning, column writing, equipment ordering, accounting, kit wrangling.... The list goes on.

And more often, there doesn't seem enough time for what's really important, like friends, family, boyfriend, and community.

So I found it particularly inspirational to write about the fans in this issue of Bantha Tracks. My guess is that they are every bit as busy as I am. They have at least as many irons in the fire, and their jobs also have pressures, yet they seem to have their priorities well-sorted. Not only do they find time for their friends and families, they find time to do valuable, unselfish, and sometimes just plain entertaining things for the people around them-often people they have never met before-just in the name of good fun and good service. When was the last time I helped out at a kids' book fair? Well, let's just say it's been a while.

I feel very lucky to be surrounded by, and to write about, such people. I feel inspired by them every single day. Because really, doing things just for myself is silly.

> Get in Tracks! Mary Franklin Editor, Bantha Tracks

ABOVE RIGHT: Image submitted by Michael McMaster. Photo by Dawn McMaster.



STAR WARS: THE GALAXY NEXT DOOR

s you read through the pages of Bantha Tracks you might be tempted to think that Star Wars fans live somewhere else, perhaps in their own galaxy far, far away. But take a look outside your door. Chances are you'll see these fans, and proof of the many good works they do, right in your own neighborhood.

"We at Hughson Elementary encourage our students to become lifelong readers, so we created the Star Wars Book Club," writes Gilbert Valenzuela, who works at an After School program in Hughson, California. "There's more to Star Wars than movies, television, and video games to keep them busy. The books instil a lifelong love of reading."

In addition to the reading program, Valenzuela and the staff have the kids do Star Wars word searches and play Star Wars Trivial Pursuit. They create their own books, draw pictures, and hear how the musical score helps tell the story of Star Wars.

GET IN TRACKS!





Kids display favorite Star Wars books. "Students were free to bring their own Star Wars books from the school library or from home, says Gilbert Valenzuela, who also took all the photos on this page. "We're using Star Wars as a way to jump-start the way young people think about things in the real world and the choices they make."

RIGHT: "On June 27 we had members of the 501st Central California Garrison come in to say congratulations to the students for doing a great job," Valenzuela says. "It was a great success, and we plan to do it again."



LEFT: Darth Vader gets into the spirit of the day.



RIGHT: Michael McMaster brought his R2-D2 to the event as well. The droid was clearly a huge hit with the young readers.







RIGHT: Hundreds of fans of all ages attended the second Star Wars Day at the Sterling Heights Public Library in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Thanks to how popular the 2008 event was, a third session was added this year to accommodate more than 750 fans," reports Jon "Blasty" Leopold, Great Lakes Garrison PR Officer. "Librarian Tracy Harnish said this was the largest event they've ever held, surpassing even their last Harry Potter event." Photo [right] by Joe Vitale.





LEFT AND ABOVE: Oklahoma's largest Star Wars Fan Club, the JediOKC, knows how to get the best mileage out of a Vader puppet and the most fun for its communities. In October, 2008, the club created a 12-foot-high puppet for the Oklahoma City "Ghouls Gone Wild" parade.

"He was such a hit that he donned a Santa hat and converted his lightsaber into a six-foot candy cane for the Norman, Oklahoma Holiday Parade in December," writes Ryan McKinley of the OKC, who also took and supplied these photos. "It was only a matter of time before July 4 rolled around and he put on his most patriotic Uncle Sam hat and flew the red, white and blue from his lightsaber for the Edmond Liberty Fest parade."

McKinley reports that parade spectators "sang" the Imperial March as Vader rolled down the streets, and some even saluted.

"After the July 4 parade, Vader will go the way of all honorable Jedi-in a giant bonfire," McKinley says.



LEFT: Both the Great Lakes Garrison of the 501st Legion, and the Midwest Base of the Rebel Legion provided entertainment and activities for kids at the event, including "blaster" ranges, photo opportunities, scavenger hunts, and other games. Photo by Jon Leopold.





ABOVE: After playing lightsaber games, kids at the Sterling Heights Public Library event took group photos with two Jedi in their best action poses. Fans from the costuming group created lightsaber effects on the pictures for the library's photo site. Photo by Barbara Van Havermaat, Effects added by Andy Weston.

"The library received enough positive feedback to fill a Star Destroyer," says Leopold. "Kids and parents kept asking when the next Star Wars Day will be. The library, 501st Legion, and Rebel Legion are already making plans to make next year's experience even better."

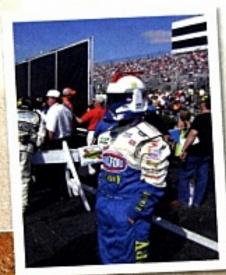
Leopold reports that one idea for the future was a stormtrooper dunk tank. "The members of the 501st have been known to do to some crazy things in armor, so I wouldn't rule that out."





ABOVE: Members of the Arkansas Crimson Nova Squad rock out with Sharpe Dunaway and The Blue Meanies at the West End in Little Rock.

"Dunaway's idea, which I was kind of wary of, was to have us escort his band onstage for their opening song," writes Tracy Wilson. Wilson's concerns soon evaporated, when the loud cheers of the crowd swept the room. "All in all, a very positive adventure." Photos submitted by Tracy Wilson.



LEFT: Derek Duvall created this special clone helmet for driver Marcos Ambrose. Ambrose, in the #59 Star Wars car, wore the helmet around the pits before the races.

Duvall painted a Hasbro clone trooper helmet with the colors of Ambrose's race team. Decals came from the team's graphic arts department, and Duvall's son Cody placed them on the helmet.

"Marcos loves the helmet and couldn't believe it was his to keep," writes Duvall, who also took the photo. "His pit crew thought it was great. I think I made a new fan for Star Wars."



BANTHA TRACKS SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Any original art, envelope art, comics, illustrations, news, stories, meeting information, or any materials voluntarily submitted become the property of Bantha Tracks. All images should be good enough quality for print (i.e. non-pixelated at 300dpi screen resolution). Ideal file size approx 1MB per image. No compensation will be given for voluntary submissions, and there is no guarantee of publication. Submissions will not be returned.

Each submission must include the creator's name, age, contact information, date the work was created, and a statement that the work is original, created by the person submitting it, and that the person is a member of the official Star Ways Fan Club. Send your electronic files to banthatracks@starwars.com, or send your snail mail to Bantha Tracks, c/o Mary Franklin, P.O. Box 29901, San Francisco, CA 94129









While shooting the trash compactor scene Mark Hamill burst a blood vessel in his face after holding his breath for too long.

A scene in which THX falls into a garbage compactor and fends off a mutated rodent was cut from George Lucas' THX 1138 because the monster did not look realistic.

Out of the fire and into the frying pan: The trash compactor scene takes our heroes away from one danger (pursuit by stormtroopers) and drops them into even greater danger (being crushed). It's a classic serial cliffhanger, the point where serial cinemagoers of the past would have been invited to return next week to see the resolution. It's great for the characters, as each of them gets to respond in different ways that clearly define their personalities: Han shoots the walls lone of several things in Star Wars that Solo shoots firstl; Chewbacca rages and panics; Leia tries to take control; Luke falls victim to the dianoga. The conclusion sees the true hero of the entire saga come to the rescue, as R2-D2 saves everyone from becoming a lot thinner.

CLASSIC MOMENT

STAR WARS: EPISODE IV A NEW HOPE [DVD CHAPTER 34]

WHAT THEY SAID

"My favorite scene was when they were in the garbage compactor, and the walls were closing in, and I thought that's like the belly of the whale that Joe Campbell [wrote about]."-Bill Moyers, PBS Presenter

1976 Script

INT. DEATH STAR—GARBAGE ROOM

Han tumbles into the large room filled with garbage and muck. Luke is already stumbling around looking for an exit. He finds a small hatchway and struggles to get it open. It won't budge.

HAN: (sarcastically) Oh! The garbage chute was a really wonderful idea. What an incredible smell you've discovered! Let's get out of here! Get away from there

LUKE: No! Wait!

Han draws his laser pistol and fires at the hatch. The laserbolt ricochets wildly around the small metal room. Everyone dives for cover in the garbage as the bolt explodes almost on top of them. Leia climbs out of the garbage with a rather grim look on her face.

LUKE: Will you forget it? I already tried it. It's magnetically sealed!

LEIA: Put that thing away! You're going to get us all killed.

HAN: Absolutely, Your Worship. Look, I had everything under control until you led us down here. You know, it's not going to take them long

TRASH COMPACTOR



to figure out what happened to us.

LEIA: It could be worse...

A loud, horrible, inhuman moan works its way up from the murky depths. Chewbacca lets out a terrified howl and begins to back away. Han and Luke stand fast with their laser pistols drawn. The Wooklee is cowering near one of the walls.

HAN: It's worse.

LUKE: There's something alive in here!

HAN: That's your imagination.

LUKE: Something just moved past my leg! Look! Did you see that?

HAN: What?

LUKE: Help!

Suddenly Luke is yanked under the garbage.

HAN: Luke! Luke! Luke!

Solo tries to get to Luke, Luke surfaces with

a gasp of air and thrashing of limbs. A membrane tentacle is wrapped around his throat.

LEIA: Luke!

Leia extends a long pipe toward him.

LEIA: Luke, Luke, grab a hold of this.

LUKE: Blast it, will you! My gun's jammed.

HAN: Where?

LUKE: Anywhere! Oh!!

Solo fires his gun downward. Luke is pulled back into the muck by the slimy tentacle.

HAN: Luke! Luke!

Suddenly the walls of the garbage receptacle shudder and move in a couple of inches. Then everything is deathly quiet. Han and Leia give each other a worried look as Chewbacca howls in the corner. With a rush of bubbles and muck Luke suddenly bobs to the surface.

LEIA: Grab him!

Luke seems to be released by the thing.

LEIA: What happened?

LUKE: I don't know, it just let go of me and disappeared....

HAN: I've got a very bad feeling about this.

Before anyone can say anything the walls begin to rumble and edge toward the Rebels.

LUKE: The walls are moving!

LEIA: Don't just stand there. Try to brace it with something.

They place poles and long metal beams between the closing walls, but they are simply snapped and bent as the giant trash masher rumbles on. The situation doesn't look too good.

LUKE: Wait a minute!

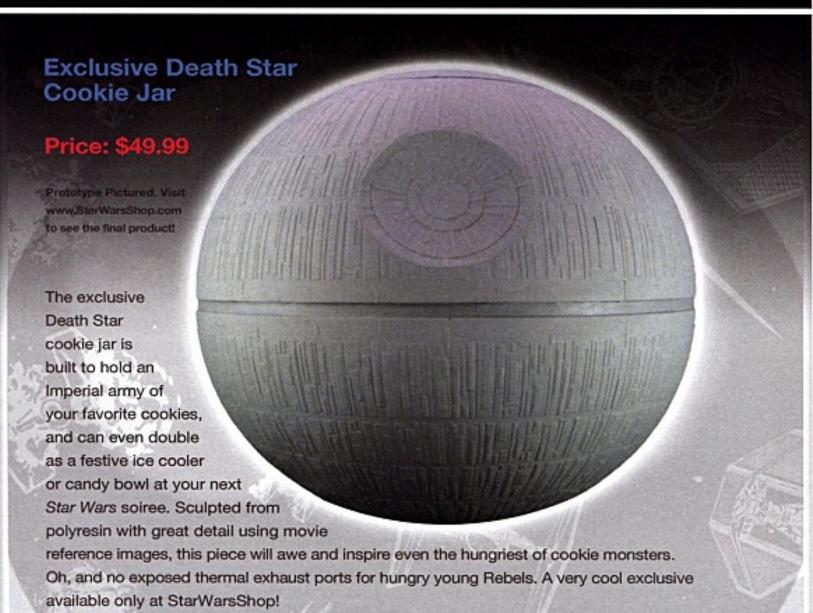
Luke pulls out his comlink.

LUKE: Threepio! Come in Threepio! Threepio! Where could be be?



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NEXT ISSUE....

CLONE CHATTER!

ACTOR DEE BRADLEY BAKER ON THE CHALLENGES
OF VOICING AN IDENTICAL ARMY!

CATHERINE TABER

ON THE PERILS OF PADMÉ, AND PLAYING THE GALAXY'S MOST GLAMOROUS SENATOR!

MATTHEW WOOD

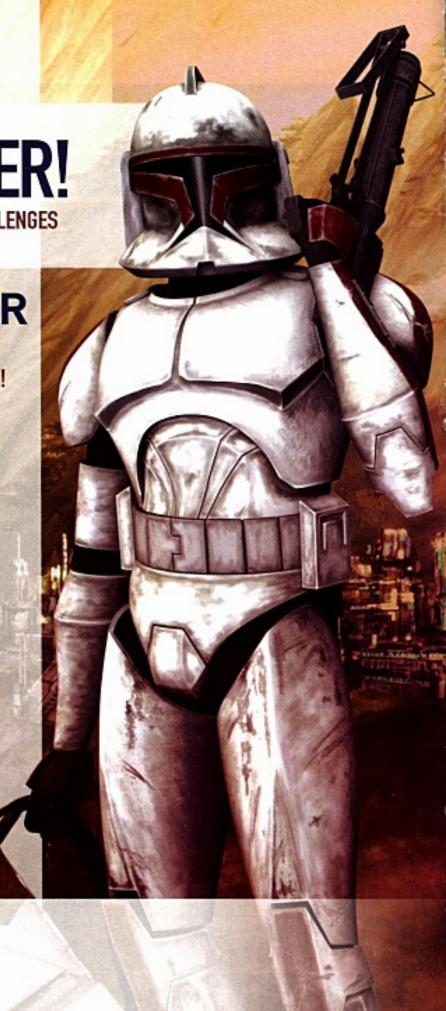
THE VOICE OF GENERAL GRIEVOUS ON THE SOUNDS OF THE SEPERATISTS!

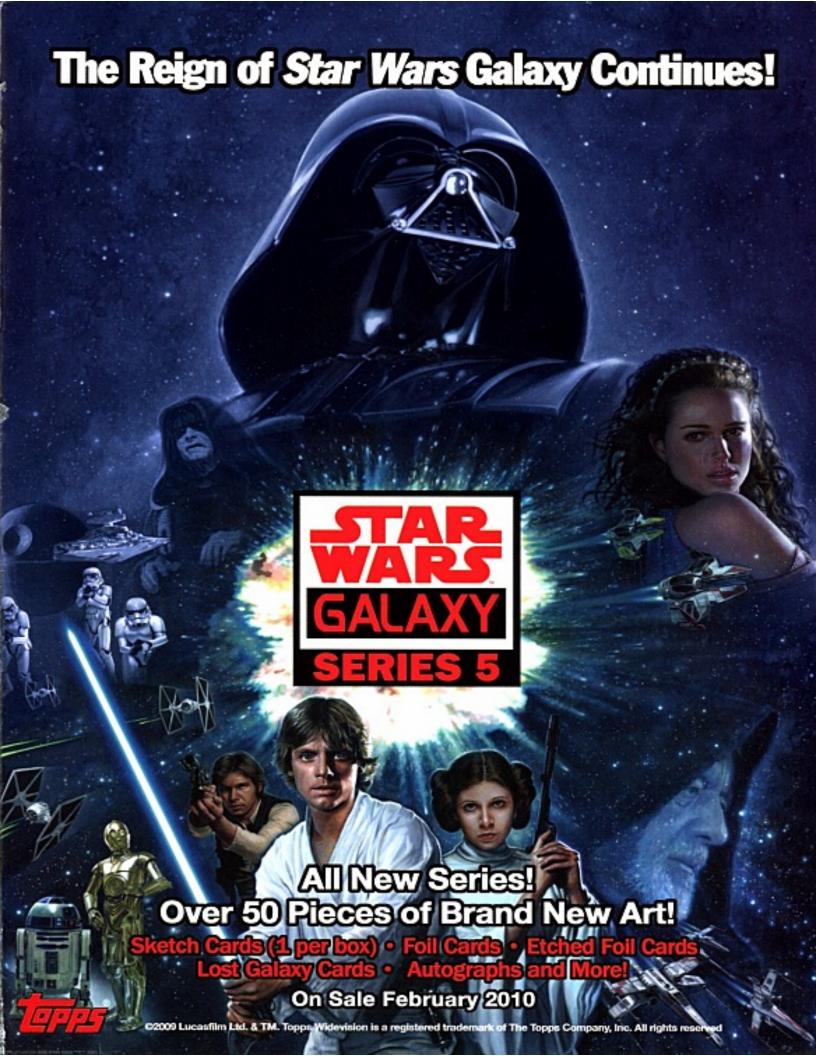
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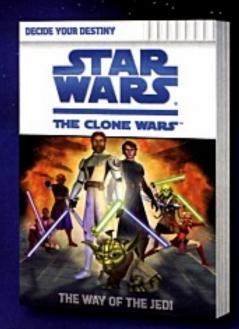


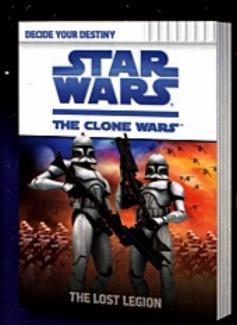


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THE GLONE







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